



**May 26, 2024  
Trinity Sunday  
Baptism**

**Gower Street United Church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background, or sexual orientation.**



*We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we live, work and worship as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Kaimuki (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. And we acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come.*

*As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.*

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**Bold indicates unison.**  
**Rise in body and spirit as you prefer.**  
**The projected text in white is a communal response.**

**Today's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of  
The Brookings and Smith Families from Cheryl Conway.**

## **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

### **The Life and Work of Gower**

**Voluntary:** Voluntary on the 100th Purcell

**We sing:** VU 315 Holy, Holy, Holy Nicea  
Congregation sings verses 1, 2, 4 Choir only: Verse 3

### **Words of Welcome:**

No matter who you are, where you come from, how you come to be here, what you believe or what you are questioning, you are welcome in fullness.

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

Surprising God, you come to us in the whisper of the wind and in the gentle nudge of companions on this journey.

**Sometimes your message challenges, while at other times it startles.  
Let this candle be a sign of your constant hope and unending love.**

### **Gathering Words:**

As sunlight dazzles on lakes and sunsets blaze through the sky,  
**let the brilliance of our Creator God's love guide us to see God's way for us.**

With the cry of a loon into the dusk, or the shouts of children playing in a field,

**let the melody of God's love sung through Jesus help us to receive God's word for us.**

Like granite running jagged through the hills, or creeks flowing from source to sea,

**let the presence of God's Spirit ground us so we may know God's strength within us.**

**Gathering Prayer:**

Holy One...

Holy Three...

**Known in our hearts.**

Great Mystery! Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

**Source of our lives, always and all ways.**

We rest in this moment, opening ourselves to you.

**Breathe new life into our souls, we pray.**

Guide us to paths of love, we ask.

**Fill us with a desire to live for you, we cry!**

Great Mystery!

**In our hearts. Holy Three. Holy One. Amen.**

**We sing:** MV 376 Three Things I Promise

Blann

**Circle Song**

**Circle Time**

**THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM**

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

**Jesus Blesses Little Children**

*Then, little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Mark 10: 13-15)*

**Presentation of Candidate:**

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church, I present:

**Madelyn Dorothy Blanche Roberts**

child of **Heather and James Roberts**

**The Profession of Faith and Promises:**

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

**I do, by the grace of God.**

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice?

**I do, God being my helper.**

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your siblings in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

**I will, God being my helper.**

**Congregational Commitment:**

Let us pledge our support and care.

**As baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the wider community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith**

VU p. 918

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water:**

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation. By water comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**Baptism in the name of the Triune God:**

*Madelyn*, we baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Marking with the Sign of the Cross:**

*Madelyn*, Child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Laying on of Hands:**

*Madelyn*, the power of the Holy Spirit works within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **Recognizing the Candle:**

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

*Madelyn*, may the candle lit for you remind us that Jesus said, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God." **Amen.**

## **Hopes and Dreams for Madelyn**

### **Presentation to the Congregation Declaration and Congregational Welcome:**

There is one God, one faith, and one baptism:

**By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body. We are children of the one God, Parent of us all. We welcome you into the community of faith.**

We sing: VU 454 May God Who Creates You

### **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**Sung Invitation for Illumination:** MV 97 Listen, God is Calling  
traditional Tanzanian

**Responsive Psalm:** VU.p.756 Psalm 29  
God's voice is over the waters. Hatch  
Margaret Tibbo

**A reading from the Gospel:** John 3:1-17  
Nicodemus visits Jesus by night.

**Sung Response:** VU 958 Halle, Halle, Halle Caribbean

**Anthem:** The Old 100th Psalm Tune  
All People That On Earth Do Dwell Vaughan Williams

### **Meditation**

**We sing:** VU 509 Here I Am, Lord Here I Am, Lord

**COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE  
THROUGH OUR MINISTRY**

*The offering plates are located near the sanctuary doors. You are invited to place your offerings there when you arrive or leave. You can also scan the QR code on our bulletin to donate via our website.*

**Gathering our Gifts**

**We sing:** VU 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace

Stuttgart

**Offering Prayer:**

**Creator of our hearts, Jesus of our lives, Spirit of each moment-  
We aren't very good at bending our knee, but we know, God of all,  
that we are yours, heart, mind, and soul; You love and protect,  
And cherish and challenge us. Guide us, O God, As we live our part  
and give our portion. In Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.**

**Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus**

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 151 Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

**We go out into the world:**

God's love rains down upon you,  
**drenching us with peace.**

God's love pools within you,  
**a reservoir for all our loving.**

From God's family to yours,  
**let the love of God-Creator, Christ and Spirit-be released.**

**We sing:** Soli Deo gloria

Haugen

**Postlude:** Fantasia in G Major BWV 572

J S Bach

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent/Easter 2024, Year B.*

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**Minister:** The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald  
**Youth & Family Minister:** The Rev. Rebecca Pike  
**Minister Emeritus:** The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy  
**Organist & Music Ministry:** R. Carl Goulding  
**Custodian:** David Noseworthy  
**Board Chair:** Patrick Griffin



Rainbow Melodies:  
Celebrating Pride, Community,  
and Summer Harmony

Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 10:45 a.m.  
In-Person and Online



Be part of our community on Sunday, June 2, at 10:45 a.m. for a special worship service with music from the Gower Community Band, Stella's Circle Inclusion Choir, and Gower Bell Choir.

In worship, we will celebrate Pride Sunday, PIE Day, and the Sacrament of Baptism. Following worship, we will have our third annual Kick-Off to Summer Social! There will be Hot Dogs, Pie, Coffee, Tea, Juice, and fun activities for all ages, including a Bilingual game hosted by our friends from Canadian Parents for French.