



**May 5, 2024  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Red Dress Day  
Mental Health Sunday**

**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.*

**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  
Derek's Mom, Trudy Green, from Derek and Susan Green.**

## **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

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

**Voluntary:** Aria

Rawsthorne

**We sing:** VU 260 God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness

Abbott's Leigh

### **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:**

This candle's flame reminds us of the light of Jesus present in the world.

**The flame represents hope and unconditional love.**

Today as we light this candle we think of the Indigenous Community as this is Red Dress Day as well as those who have mental illness. It is Mental Health Awareness Sunday.

**We pray that this light might be a symbol of new life and promise. Amen.**

### **Gathering Words:**

**Jesus lives!**

God rises with every sunrise in the heavens.

**And God rises with every moon.**

The light of Jesus shines through all the universe,

**on every day and through every night.**

Come. Let us praise this glorious gift we have been given.

**Come. Let us worship our God.**

### **Gathering Prayer:**

Dear Creator God, we are filled with trust in your guidance.

Nothing is possible without you.

**Our life journeys continue with you at our sides. Fears are scarce and worries few when we trust your presence.**

Guide us to a place of comfort when we feel isolated and alone. Inspire us with hope when we start believing that the world is becoming a bad place.

**Let our confidence in your love overcome our fears.**

**Your grace surrounds all people.**

Your love benefits everyone. Your mercy is infinite. Your compassion is unquestioning.

**Help us to reflect this understanding to each other when doubt fills us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 376 Spirit of the Living God

Living God

### **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

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

Traditional: Tanzania

**Responsive Psalm:** VU p.818 Psalm 98, Refrain 1  
Sing to God a new song.

Goodrich  
Meghan McKibbon

**A reading from the Gospel:** John 15:9-17  
Love one another as I have loved you.

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

Caribbean

**Anthem:** Eternal God

Rutter

**Circle Song**

**Circle Time**

**Candle Lighting for Mental Health Awareness and Red Dress Day:**

We light this candle of Truth

**that God will help us dispel ignorance and misinformation about Mental Health Illness and Indigenous Communities. (*Silent Prayer*)**

We light this candle of Healing

**that troubled minds and hearts, broken lives and relationships might be healed within communities so that there is understanding, intentional awareness and reconciliation of Indigenous Relations and Mental Health Illness. (*Silent prayer*)**

We light this candle of Understanding

**that the darkness of stigma, labels, exclusion and marginalization might be dispelled for the sake of those touched by mental illness and violence towards Indigenous women. (*Silent prayer*)**

We light this candle of Hope  
**for persons and families living with mental illness, for better treatment, for steadier recovery, for greater opportunity to work and serve.**

We light this candle of Hope  
**For families grieving the loss of loved ones within the Indigenous Community. We pray for better treatment, education, right relations and justice filled pathways to understanding, peace and non-violence. (Silent prayer)**

We light this candle of Thankfulness  
**for compassionate, dedicated caregivers and mental health professionals; for new discoveries in brain research and better medications. For those who work with grieving families of lost loved ones, for social workers and caregivers within the indigenous community. For advocates of right relations and justice makers. For educators. (Silent prayer)**

We light this candle of Steadfast Love  
**to remind us of God's love and faithfulness, and to remind us to shine God's light of unconditional love, mercy and justice for those living with mental illness and our Indigenous siblings close and far.**

**We sing:** MV 154 Deep In Our Hearts (v.3)

**Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Judi Somers

**We sing:** VU 579 (v.2) The Church Is Wherever God's People

**Meditation**

**We sing:** VU 600 When I Needed a Neighbour

Neighbour

**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.*

**Minute for Mission:** The REDress Project

**Gathering our Gifts:**

We are not powerless.

**We can do something.**

We have been called to make a difference, both here and around the world.

**Let us then offer our gifts of time, talent and money as one way to offer God's healing grace to a hurting world.**

**We sing:** VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

**Offering Prayer:**

In words of compassion, in words of reconciliation, **Jesus is alive!**

In acts of peacemaking, in acts of peace bringing, **Jesus is alive!**

In support for those living in fear and with a sense of helplessness, **Jesus is alive!**

In gifts for the local church, in gifts for a hurting world, Jesus is alive! **Jesus is alive!**

**Gracious God, may we be the evidence of his vitality. Amen.**

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

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 586 We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

**We go out into the world:**

Go now to live, breathe, be the new thing that God is doing.

Go in the name and in the spirit of the Risen One.

**We will go in Jesus' name, anticipating and welcoming his loving presence in every soul God has created. Amen.**

**Threefold Amen:** VU 967

Danish

**Postlude:** Trumpet Voluntary

Clarke

*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





# *To the Glory of God*

Donation to the *Operating Fund*  
in loving memory of  
**Lester Goulding**  
from Elsie and family

Donation to the *Memorial Fund*  
in loving memory of  
**Marion Abbott**  
from Caroline Lane, Marilyn Folkes