



November 17, 2024
26th Sunday after Pentecost

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 to all Gower UCW Members
and those who have supported their ministry past and present.**

We welcome Gower's UCW group as our worship leaders today.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier BWV731 J S Bach

We sing: VU 395 Come in, come in and sit down
Part of the Family

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.

Light of Faith:

In the light of this candle, we welcome the presence of Jesus, our guide in hospitality. This light shines as a reminder that God's love and welcome know no bounds.

We are called to extend kindness, generosity, and acceptance to all. May this light inspire us to offer open hearts, willing hands, and a spirit of true welcome, knowing that, in every act of hospitality, we reflect the love and grace of God. Amen.

Gathering Words:

God of boundless welcome,

we gather today with grateful hearts, celebrating the gifts of hospitality and the joy of shared time.

All are invited where love and laughter flow freely,

and where every soul finds warmth and acceptance.

As we come together this morning, may we be reminded of Your hospitality,

opening ourselves to Your presence and to one another with kindness and generosity.

Gathering Prayer:

Bless this gathering, O God, **that we may reflect Your grace and warmth in every word spoken, every song lifted, and every smile shared. Guide us, as we seek to be channels of Your love in a world in need of compassion. May our time together be filled with fun, food for the soul, and the fellowship of friends rooted in Your love that knows no boundaries. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who loves us all. Amen.**

Circle Time: VU 365 Jesus Loves Me (v, 1, 2) Jesus Loves Me

All ages are invited to come forward as we sing

LISTENING TO THE STORY

We sing: VU 624 Give to Us Laughter Oldham

A Reading from Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10

A Reading from Gospel: John 15: 12-13

Reflection on Friendship

Solo

A Reading from Scripture: Galatians 6: 2

A Reading from Scripture: Hebrews 10: 24-25

Reflection on Fellowship

We sing: VU 664 What a Friend We Have in Jesus Friendship

Readings from Scripture: Psalm 136: 25, Proverbs 22: 9, Isaiah 58:7

A Reading from Gospel: John 6: 35, Luke 3: 11

Reflection on Food

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:

Generous and Loving God, with thankful hearts, we bring our gifts before You. Just as You have abundantly blessed us, we offer these gifts with hope that they may extend Your love and compassion into the world.

We sing: VU 541 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Old 100th

Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, may these offerings become acts of hospitality— providing food for the hungry, comfort for the lonely, and hope for those in need. Bless each gift and each giver, that together we may be instruments of Your grace, sharing freely as You have shared with us. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 380 She Comes Sailing on the Wind She Flies On

We Go to The World:

As we go from this place, may we carry the spirit of hospitality within us— welcoming others with open hearts and joyful spirits, sharing the gifts of friendship, laughter, and love. Go now in peace, to serve, to love, and to share, that all may know the warmth of God's welcome. Amen.

We sing: VU 964 Go Now in Peace Sleeth

Postlude: Processional William Mathias

Worship today was adapted from a worship service created by Collier Street United Church UCW, shared with Gower UCW by Marion Tizzard.

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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

