

**October 13, 2024**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Season of Creation**  
**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.*

99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145  
E-Mail: [office@gowerunited.com](mailto:office@gowerunited.com) Website: <https://gowerunited.co>



**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 gratitude for the community of Gower on this Thanksgiving Sunday from Gwen and David Alcock.**

## **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

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

**Voluntary on Now Thank We All Our God** Eric Thiman

**We sing:** VU 516 Come, You Thankful People, Come  
St. George's, Windsor

### **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:**

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we come with grateful hearts, mindful of the gifts around us. The light of this candle acknowledges God's presence, the source of all creation, love, and abundance.

**This flame symbolizes the light of faith shining in our lives and the world. It reminds us to reflect that light through gratitude, kindness, and compassion.**

### **Gathering Words:**

Come into this space of contemplation, of prayer, and of gratitude.

**We come in from the cruel ironies and suffering of our world.**

Come into this gathering as those seeking wholeness and relationship.

**We come as those weary and uncertain from a puzzling world.**

### **Gathering Prayer:**

Come and breathe in God in prayer:

**Our minds are full of worries, distractions, and needs. Hold us, Loving God, we pray, as we breathe deeply of your healing power in reverent silence.**

*(a time for deep breaths)*

We continue our prayers in one voice, more deeply aware of your grace, O God:

**You assure us we are not alone, for we live in your good Creation. In Christ, through Christ, and by Christ, we become one in your love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may you integrate us into wholeness, that we may carry others as we are also carried by you in this suffering world. We offer our gratitude this day for all that you mean to our lives. Amen.**

*All ages are invited to come forward as we sing.*

**Circle Time:** We Praise You for the Sun (v.1)  
We praise you for the Sun  
The golden shining sun,  
That gives us healing, strength, and joy;  
We praise you for the sun.

### **THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM**

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

#### ***Jesus Blesses Little Children***

*13 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; 14 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." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Mark 10: 13-15)*

#### **Presentation of Candidates:**

*(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)*

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

**Levi James Legge**

child of Hailie Butler & Justin Legge

**Sai Seto Ping**

child of Jillian Ping

#### **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 a 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 - A New Creed**

VU 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:**

*Levi/Sai*, 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:**

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

**Laying on of Hands:**

*Levi/Sai*, 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)

*Levi/Sai*, 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 Levi and Sai**

### **Presentation to the Congregation**

#### **Declaration and Congregational Welcome:**

There is one God, one faith, 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**

**We sing:** VU 227 For the Fruit of All Creation Ar Hyd Y Nos

#### **Prayer for Illumination:**

**God, may all that we share here lead us to a deeper understanding and a closer journey with you. As we read the stories of our faith tradition, may they come alive for us and help us to encounter you and your truth. Help us to understand and embrace the messages you have for us today in the stories of old and the teachings of today, messages that call us back to ways of peace and love, freedom and justice, messages that call us back to you. Amen.**

**Responsive Psalm:** VU p. 850 Psalm 126 (Refrain 2) Gwen Alcock  
Those who sow in tears reap in joy. Southern Harmony

**A reading from the Gospel:** Matthew 6: 25-33  
Do not worry about what you will eat or drink.

**Anthem:** For the Beauty of the Earth John Rutter

#### **Meditation**

**We sing:** VU 310 God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty Glen Bernard

**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 542 We Give You But Your Own Franconia

**Offering Prayer:**

**Thank you, Gracious God. Gratitude is the foundation of our giving. And so we thank you for all you have entrusted to each of us individually. We thank you for this church you have entrusted to us together. Thank you for leading us to give ourselves away through the sharing of time, talents, and resources to your glory always. Amen.**

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 236 Now Thank We All Our God Nun Danket

**We go out into the world:**

Our worship time draws to a close and we prepare ourselves to return to our everyday tasks. We are strengthened because we have gathered as a community of Jesus' followers.

**We are enlivened, for we have heard the good news. We are encouraged, and we will go and make a difference.**

May the wonder of God's love transform everything you do and express.

May the mystery of Jesus' risen presence guide you in all your actions.

May the delight of the Spirit's glory rest gently upon you, filling you with joy, this day and forevermore.

**So be it. Amen.**

**We Sing:** VU 418 Go Forth for God (v.1) Old 124th

**Postlude:** *Trumpet Voluntary* John Stanley

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 2 2024, Year B.*

*All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-700000 or CCLI Copyright License: 3157095 & Streaming License: 21279189*

**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





# GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME PULPIT EXCHANGE

WORSHIP, LUNCH AND LEARN  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M.  
GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH AND  
ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

As St. James United welcomes the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parady, Gower Street United will welcome the Rev. James Ravenscroft from St. James United in worship leadership followed by a lunch and learn on Guaranteed Livable Income.







**Flourishing**  
Bold ideas  
Daring connections

Join us for a day with the Moderator  
**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne**  
Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Cowan Heights United Church  
141 Frecker Drive, St. John's, NL  
FREE REGISTRATION



**LUNCH INCLUDED**

Join the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, at Cowan Heights United Church for a day of engaging reflection and energizing activities, toward dream-oriented action for our churches and communities.

**Saturday, November 2, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

All around the world – from universities to the United Nations, from corporations to community organizations – people are talking about flourishing. Rooted in belonging, flourishing means living with purpose and joy, and bringing bold collaborative solutions to our world's challenges.

The Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, wants to bring that conversation to The United Church of Canada. She invites us to connect to one another in hope, with a deep conviction by a belief that, despite all the challenges of church life in this day and age, we can move from despair to transformation – from languishing to flourishing.

Is your church flourishing?

(Perhaps that's the wrong question.)

Is your church contributing to the flourishing of your community?

How might we truly be a flourishing church in the world? How might we live in deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice, linked from coast to coast to coast in ministry that transforms us and the world around us?

For how to register speak to Rev. Rebecca or call the Gower Office.