



**October 27, 2024**  
**Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Peace Sunday**  
**Reformation 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.*

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



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

**We welcome The Rev. Guy Matthews as our worship leader today.**

### **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

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

**Voluntary:** Prelude on *Amazing Grace*

Denis Bédard

**We sing:** VU 374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre

#### **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**

#### **Gathering Words:**

When it seems that only darkness surrounds us, there is still light.

**When we have an overwhelming sense of blindness, we will be given sight.**

Our God sees our struggles and extends healing love to us.

**May we be open to the light of Jesus' love, breaking through our blindness and filling our world with joy.**

#### **All: Singing verse 1 of "Shine, Jesus, Shine"**

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me  
*Shine, Jesus, shine*  
*Fill this land with the Father's glory*  
*Blaze, Spirit, blaze*  
*Set our hearts on fire*  
*Flow, river, flow*  
*Flood the nations with grace and mercy*  
*Send forth your word*  
*Lord, and let there be light*

We come so that the bonds that trap us in darkness may be torn away...

**that all our fears would be wiped away and we may boldly proclaim God's Love.**

We seek the courage to stand for what we have come to believe is true.

**We seek the wisdom to stand by others in their struggles and their searching.**

**All: Singing verse 2 of "Shine, Jesus, Shine"**

Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me  
*Shine, Jesus, shine*  
*Fill this land with the Father's glory*  
*Blaze, Spirit, blaze*  
*Set our hearts on fire*  
*Flow, river, flow*  
*Flood the nations with grace and mercy*  
*Send forth your word*  
*Lord, and let there be light*

By God's wide mercy, be opened to leave here with Transformed lives.

**And Reformed souls.**

Seek a new day in the kingdom of God.

**We seek a new way of serving God with great joy.**

**All: singing verse 3 of "Shine, Jesus, Shine"**

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me  
*Shine, Jesus, shine*  
*Fill this land with the Father's glory*  
*Blaze, Spirit, blaze*  
*Set our hearts on fire*  
*Flow, river, flow*  
*Flood the nations with grace and mercy*  
*Send forth your word*  
*Lord, and let there be light*

**Gathering Prayer:**

**God, our Healer, give us the courage of blind Bartimaeus, to cry out to you when we are in need; give us the wisdom of Job, to know when we have overreached and our cause is lost; give us the confidence of the Psalmist, to sing your praises and magnify your name. Grant us the wisdom, O God, to seek from you what is of real value – what will truly make us well, what will truly make us whole, what will truly bring us joy. Amen.**

**Circle Time** *All ages are invited to come forward as we sing*

Little children, little children who love their redeemer,  
Are the jewels precious jewels God's loved and God's own.  
Like the stars of the morning, God's bright crown adorning,  
They shall shine in their beauty Bright gems for God's crown.

### **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**We sing:** VU 271 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Stuttgart

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

**Lord, help us not to listen to the crowd. Instead, give us the courage to listen to our hearts and make Christ the centre of our lives. As today's scriptures are read, open our ears to hear the call to follow, not in the paths of others, but in the path of God's leading. Amen!**

**A Reading from Scripture:** Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Naomi Addison  
Job's eyes are opened and he sees his faith and God in a whole new way.

**Responsive Psalm:** VU p. 761 Psalm 34 (sections 1 & 2) Kreutz  
"O Taste and See that the Lord is Good"

**A Reading from Gospel:** Mark 10:46-52  
Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus and his sight is restored.

**Anthem:** Here I Am, Lord Dan Schutte

#### **Meditation**

**We sing:** VU 613 We Cannot Measure How You Heal

### **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 Gift**

**We sing:** VU 266 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (v. 1,3 & 4)

#### **Offering Prayer:**

Mighty God, you restore sight to the blind and bounty to the afflicted;  
you provide refuge for the lost and freedom for the condemned.

**Open our mouths to cry out our need and open our hearts to give from our abundance, in Jesus' name we offer this prayer. Amen!**

## Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

### WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

**We sing:** VU 264 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**We go to the world:**

Darkness has been banished. Sight has been restored. Your lives are reformed in Christ's love. So, go out now in peace to serve with great joy. Bring the love of God with you so that the light which has brightened your life may shine for others. Go now, beloved, to serve. AMEN!

**We sing:** VU 371 Open My Eyes, That I May See

**Postlude:** Variations sur *Sine Nomine* Denis Bédard

*Parts of today's worship were adapted from [www.ministrymatters.com/](http://www.ministrymatters.com/)  
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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

