

**October 6, 2024**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
**Season of Creation**  
**Confirmation**

**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 celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of Ed & Sharon Moores.

### THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

#### The Life and Work of Gower

**Voluntary:** CŒLESTIS URBS JERUSALEM Dupré

**We sing:** VU 213 Rejoice, the Lord is King Darwall's 124th

#### **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:**

Churches around the world light a candle symbolizing Jesus in their midst. There is a unity in ritual and in the experience of the light of the candle.

**We are reminded that in all situations, faith brings light and hope.**

#### **Gathering Words:**

Come to rejoice, celebrating the abundance flowing from God's grace at this table.

**Knowing we are blessed, we come to give joyful thanks and praise.**

#### **Gathering Prayer:**

Open to possibility and transformation, come to embrace God's reign in prayer. **Generous God, whose bounty is shared so we may share in return, turn our understanding upside down, open our hearts with your challenge to create a grace-full community, feed us that we may taste the living bread and enflame us with the Spirit's passion for justice. Amen.**

#### **Celebrating Birthday and Anniversaries**

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

*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.

**We sing:** VU 341 Fairest Lord Jesus Crusaders' Hymn

### THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

#### **Statement of Purpose:**

At various stages of the faith journey, we have opportunities to reaffirm and renew the faith proclaimed in our baptism. As we reaffirm the power of the Holy Spirit, those who have been baptized as children claim for themselves the faith of the Christian community in which they have been nurtured. Today, we celebrate the place of these persons in God's family, give thanks for their gifts in the body of Christ, and promise to

continue to walk with them in the journey of faith. With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate the faith we all share and rededicate ourselves to the life and work of the Body of Christ.

**Presentation of Candidates:**

*(Representative of Worship and Sacraments Committee)*

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church, I present the following persons who seek to reaffirm publicly the faith proclaimed in their baptism:

*Naomi Michèle Addison and Jasmine Renee Gill*

**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, who works in us and others by the Spirit? **I do, by the grace of God.**

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, will you seek to resist evil and live in love and justice? **I will, God being my helper.**

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and actions? **I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your siblings in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others? **I will, God being my helper.**

**Congregational Commitment:**

Let us pledge to these people our continued support and care.

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

**Remembrance of Baptism:**

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Thanks be to God.**

**Laying on of Hands:**

*Naomi & Jasmine*, may the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Presentation of Bible:**

*Naomi & Jasmine*, receive this Bible, and, with your siblings in Christ, may you continue to grow in faith, trusting in God's promises.

**We sing:** VU 454 May God Who Creates You

**LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Dear 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. Amen.**

**A reading from Scripture:** Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12 Stuart Gill  
God gave the world to humans, not angels.

**A reading from the Gospel:** Mark 10: 13-16  
Jesus blesses children.

**Anthem:** Take My Life, and Let It Be Havergal

## Meditation

### **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:

**Redeeming God, at this table, we have found peace and communion with your blessed Spirit. What a gift! May these offerings ensure that your church continues to be a place of renewal and sacredness, here and around the world. We humbly share, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Communion Hymn:** VU 457 As We Gather at Your Table Beach Spring

Holy Love be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up with joy and with thanksgiving.**

It is a blessing to be in the world with joy, thanks, and courage.

**We come to Holy Love's table with eagerness and humility.**

### **The Thanksgiving:**

We come to this table with joy and thanksgiving, a celebration of the Love that gathers us here, and that winks its way across the ages.

From the beginning, you, Holy Love, brought into being all life, life in abundance, baptizing it with the waters of creation.

**You found a people to bear witness to this love for life. You brought them out of enslavement, brought them through waters to a place of bounty, and gave them a purpose, to be a light to the world.**

Your love called them to the way of fairness, with dignity for all, but like all of us, they slipped and slipped again.

**You sent prophets to remind them of the way.**

In time, Jesus came, inviting all humankind to a reconciliation table.

On this commemoration of his Last Supper, we rejoice at his words of new life, his way of noticing the Holy in each one.

**We give thanks for people everywhere who continue to live out his vision of peace and his words of dignity, healing, and hope.**

**We sing:** MV 203 Sanctus and Benedictus

### **Remembering Jesus at Table**

We celebrate Jesus' birth to ordinary people living in an occupied state, his baptism in the waters of the Jordan into a new commitment to your vision for humanity, his ministry among the hurting and dispossessed people of his day, his happy habit of inviting himself to dinner with anyone and everyone, his communing with vast crowds in outbursts of generosity and sharing, and his challenge to those with power to remember the covenant.

**We remember his reinvention of a sacred meal in an upper room long ago, heralding a new liberation, a new naming of family, a new understanding of your communion with humankind, O Holy Love.**

After the meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and blessed it, as we do here, and invited his friends to share in the great banquet of love.

Then Jesus took a cup and, in the same way, gave thanks to the earth, workers, and Creator for this gift from the vine.

Jesus filled the cup and invited those around him to enter again into the covenant of love as a sign that Holy Love is stronger than fear and death.

**A Prayer of Self-Giving:**

**In our time and in this place, we do likewise—taking ordinary ingredients and offering them to one another in love as the taste of freedom, togetherness, and eager hope. More than a loaf and a cup, we offer our own selves as living bread to be in the world as Jesus was: yeast, salt, and light for a world more just, more peaceful, more faithful to the vision of security for all, and for a table stretching through all time where people find that which truly nourishes.**

**We sing:** MV 204 Memorial acclamation

**Prayer for Transformation:**

Come, Loving Spirit, to enliven this place, these elements, and this people: bring all who share in the feast into the presence of daring and tender Love. May the breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup make us all participants in Christ's great work of feeding the multitude, healing what is broken and resisting oppression. May it make us one with the risen Jesus, with all God's people, and with the communion of saints, and so nourish us with the bread of justice-seeking and the wine of celebration and thanksgiving, that we may live into God's promised realm of shalom, salaam, peace.

**Remembering the Community**

**We sing:** MV 205 Great Amen

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

The Bread of Life; the Cup of Blessing: these are the gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

<b>Choir:</b>	VU 466 Eat This Bread	Eat This Bread
	VU 475 Now the Silence, Now The Peace	Now

**Prayer after Communion:**

**Holy One, you have baptized us, called us beloved, and fed us here at the great banquet of the ages. We lift up our hearts in praise and thanks that we have this privilege, and pray that the Spirit may continue to dance within us all as we are sent forth with your blessing. Amen.**

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 232 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You Hymn to Joy

**We go out into the world:**

Just as we have been welcomed to the table of Christ, **let us now go and reach out to our neighbours, welcoming them in God's love to our tables.**

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

Old 124th

**Postlude:** Biblical Sonata No.1, Mvts. 6,7

Kuhlau

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

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**Minister:** The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

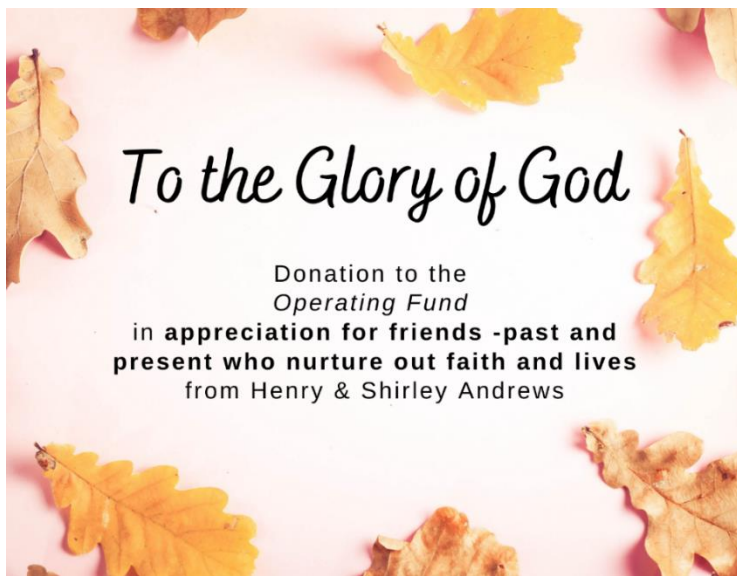

**Youth & Family Minister:** The Rev. Rebecca Pike

**Minister Emeritus:** The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parody

**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 Parody, 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.

