



September 1, 2024
15th 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.

99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145
E-Mail: 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.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: VU 658 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go St. Margaret

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:

This candle is a sign of God's light shining in the world. As this flame flickers and glows, we are reminded of the warmth of God's love, which is always with us.

May this light be a beacon of hope, guiding us in our lives.

Gathering Words:

The work of God is love.

Loving God is our work.

Let us work together.

In love, let us work together with God.

And may this time of worship inspire the loving work God calls us to do.

Gathering Prayer:

Let us pray: **Gracious and Loving God, we gather in Your presence, mindful of the work You have given us—work that is love, work that brings Your kin-dom nearer, work that transforms our world. As we unite in worship, we ask for Your blessing on all our labours, both seen and unseen. Inspire our hearts, strengthen our hands, and guide our minds, that all we do may be done in love. May our work reflect Your light in the world and bring hope, healing, and justice to all. Unite us in purpose and mission, and let our worship renew our commitment to Your holy work today. Amen.**

We sing: VU 288 Great is Thy Faithfulness Faithfulness

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A reading from Scripture: James 1:17–27 Karen Butt
Be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.

A reading from the Gospel: Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23
Not from outside but from within is a person defiled.

We sing: VU 405 New Every Morning Melcombe

Meditation

Musical Reflection

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: MV 191 What Can I Do?

Offering Prayer:

Here is the work of our hands. Here is the work of our hearts. Here is the love of our hearts. Here is our desire to make a better world. Bless our offering and send your spirit upon it so that our gifts may join the gifts of all your church to help your kin-dom come. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 660 How Firm a Foundation St. Denio

We go out into the world:

God has conceived of us as children of light and grace.
God has conceived of the earth as a place of communion and hope.
God sends us from here as midwives for God's holy dream.

May God grant us strength and faith to labour with God and all the world as we await the birth of justice and goodness. Amen.

We Sing: VU 419 May the Grace of Christ (v.1) Stuttgart

Postlude

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 1 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 Parry
Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding
Custodian: David Noseworthy
Board Chair: Patrick Griffin

A vertical poster with a light blue background. At the top, there is a bright yellow sun and white clouds. The text is centered and reads: 'THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL, THE BASILICA, GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH AND ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INVITE YOU TO OUR GOWER STREET BLOCK PARTY'. Below this, it says 'SEPTEMBER 22TH • 12:30 - 3:00 PM'. The location is 'GOWER STREET IN FRONT OF THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL'. It invites people for live music, entertainment for kids and adults, and food. It states 'EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND!' and includes a rain date: '*RAIN DATE: OCTOBER 6*'. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a row of houses with windows and doors.

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SEPTEMBER 22TH • 12:30 - 3:00 PM

LOCATION:
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JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT FOR KIDS AND
ADULTS AND OF COURSE SOME FOOD FOR ALL!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND!

RAIN DATE: OCTOBER 6