



September 15, 2024
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Season of Creation

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.

We welcome the Rev. Guy Matthews as our worship leader today.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Fanfare

Henry Purcell

We sing: VU 649 Walk with Me

Glaser

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 our own journey of faith there are times when we are thankful for the light of Christ and the glow of others to guide us when the shadows of our human experience darken our way.

We are also acutely aware that we have a calling and commission to be lights, illuminating the paths of others.

May this sacred flame strengthen our faith and embolden our purpose as we worship here and when we leave!

Alleluia, amen!

Gathering Words:

Let us enter this place together, ready to worship with thanksgiving for the abundance of God that we experience every day. God gave us a wide and wondrous world in which to live. Here, in this holy place, in community, surrounded by the wonders of God's glorious Creation, we will worship with prayer, song, hearts, and minds. This is the day that God has made! Let us rejoice and be glad!

Gathering Prayer:

Let us pray. **O God who walks beside us, we gather here, as "Fellow Travellers on the road". We come as Seekers, longing to know you and to truly know ourselves. We are a Faith Community, a Body of Believers. We gather to Listen and Learn in order to Serve. Make us Companions and Encouragers in times of loneliness and disappointment.**

Be present with us in our worship as we are Present to one another. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

Circle Time: VU 225 We Praise You for the Sun (v.1)

We sing: VU 395 Come In, Come In and Sit Down

Part of the Family

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

May you Word be a lamp unto our feet this day, O Lord. Open our hearts and our minds to your presence through the scriptures this day. Amen!

A reading from Gospel: Matthew 25:34-40

Janet Howells

When we support and serve others, we do the same to God.

Responsive Psalm: VU p. 749 Psalm 23 (Sung Refrain 2) Collognon
...You are with me.

A reading from the Gospel: Luke 5:1-7 Janet Howells
The disciples pull along side to help their friends

Anthem: Lead Me, Lord Samuel Wesley

Meditation

We sing: VU 589 Lord, Speak to Me Winscott

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 Francon

Offering Prayer:

O Gracious and Generous One, we offer these gifts with a prayer for renewal. It is with grateful hearts that we pledge to share our time, our talents, and our money where they are needed most. Use them to bring new life and hope, support and encouragement to those who are struggling, and who need someone to come along side. Let our giving be a testament to your power to reaffirm and restore. Bless the gifts we offer, today and every day. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 595 We Are Pilgrims Servant Song

Go from this time of gathering and worship;

We go out knowing that our service is just beginning.

Everyone we encounter is a Child of God.

We will pull alongside as God leads us to do.

Go out and continue to make God's dreams come true. **Amen.**

We sing: VU 649 Walk with Me (v.1 and refrain) Glaser

Postlude: Trumpet Voluntary Jeremiah Clarke

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 Pardy
Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding
Custodian: David Noseworthy
Board Chair: Patrick Griffin

