



Lend Me Your Voice!
September 29, 2024
19th 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.

**Today's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory
of The Brookings and Smith Families from Cheryl Conway.**

**This bulletin also celebrates the marriage of Shawna Renee Hudson and Geoffrey
Martin Wright on September 28 at Gower Street United. From Marie-Beth & Carl
Wright**

We welcome The Rev. Stephanie Rose as our worship leader today.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Aria

Paul Manz

We sing: VU 679 Let There Be Light

Concord

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.

Lighting of the Christ Candle: *(John 8:12 NLT)*

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said,

"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

Call to Worship: *(inspired by Psalm 124 and James 5)*

If it had not been God who was on our side,

the troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole.

If it had not been God who was on our side,

the sorrows of our times would have swept us away.

Are any among us suffering?

Come and pray.

Are any among us cheerful?

Come sing songs of praise.

Are any among us sick?

Come and ask for healing.

Our help is in our God,

the One who made heaven and earth.

Call upon God, creator and rescuer. God is on our side.

Opening Prayer: *(inspired by James 5, Mark 9)*

Christ Jesus, we come into your presence from many different places. We come with songs of joy and shouts of gratitude. We come carrying heavy burdens and sighs of suffering. As you welcome us into your house, lift our burdens and receive our praise. Salt us with your grace and flavour us with your mercy. Bind us together, that we may be at peace with one another and be strengthened to go forth in service to the world. In your holy name, we pray. 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.

Responsive Psalm: VU p. 848 Psalm 124 (Refrain 1 Sung)

A song of thanksgiving describing what might happen if God did not intervene on behalf of His people. Sung on thrice yearly pilgrimages to Jerusalem for national festivals.

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Loving God, we open our hearts to your word this morning with appreciation for your loving wisdom. Keep us open to your teaching, ready to feel your presence and receive your words. We share our deepest thanks for Jesus, your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever, and whose wisdom is revealed in these readings. Amen.

We sing: VU 581 When We Are Living

Somos del Señor

Scripture Reading:

Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22

Karl Wells

Queen Esther advocates for the lives of her people and succeeds.

James 5:13–20

Karl Wells

The elders of the church are responsible to intercede for the well being of the congregation before God.

Mark 9:38–50

Do not interfere in the relationship between God and His people.

Anthem: Come, Come Unto Me

Ken Dosso

Reflection: Lend Me Your Voice!

Prayers of Intercession: *(inspired by the book for James)*

The minister will introduce an intercession and then pause so that you may offer your own intercession to God as the Spirit moves you.

We pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray...
Our Father, which art in heaven...

**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.

Mission and Service Fund

Gathering our Gifts

We sing: VU 542 We Give You But Your Own Franconia

Prayer of Dedication:

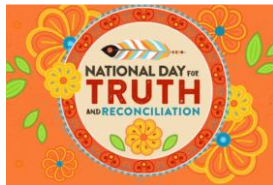
Generous God, we bring these offerings this day, and also the offerings given by PAR* and the work of our hands and hearts. We dedicate the cups of coffee shared, the jars of peanut butter donated, the listening hearts, the drives to appointments, and the other kindnesses we lovingly share in other ways. We ask that you multiply our efforts so that the world can be more the way you created it to be. Amen.

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 421 Lead on, Cloud of Presence Lancashire
Commissioning

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

Postlude David N Johnson



**Rally Around Reconciliation
September 30, 2024, 2:00 - 3:00pm Colonial Building &
Bannerman Park.
Wear your Orange Shirt!**

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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



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Rev. Stephanie Rose and her husband of thirty years, Todd, reside in Portugal Cove, NL. They have two children, Michael and Michaela, who have left them comfortably empty nested and full of anticipation for their frequent visits home with their significant others and assorted pets. A little dog —Jack— rounds out the happy and sometimes, noisy, household.

Stephanie holds a Master of Divinity, Hons. Pastoral Care; Bachelor of Arts; Diploma of Applied Ethics; and a Certificate in Criminology. Stephanie has also completed one unit of Clinical Psychospiritual Education recognized by the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care. Currently, Stephanie is employed by both the FDEE Regional Council and NL Health Services to provide Spiritual Care in the St. John's area.

*“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’
This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your
neighbour as yourself.’*

*The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two
commandments.” —Matthew 22: 37-40*

Phyllis' Story

IN HER OWN WORDS

I went to the Mission for one school year in 1973/1974. I had just turned 6 years old. I lived with my grandmother on the Dog Creek reserve. We never had very much money, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission school. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had string laced up in front, and was so bright and exciting – just like I felt to be going to school!

When I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt! I never wore it again. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! The color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared.

I was 13 years old and in grade 8 when my son Jeremy was born. Because my grandmother and mother both attended residential school for 10 years each, I never knew what a parent was supposed to be like. With the help of my aunt, Agness Jack, I was able to raise my son and have him know me as his mother.



Phyllis-Jack-Webst

I went to a treatment centre for healing when I was 27 and have been on this healing journey since then. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don't matter. Even with all the work I've done!

I am honoured to be able to tell my story so that others may benefit and understand, and maybe other survivors will feel comfortable enough to share their stories.



Illustration by Haaili Pichette
More coloring pages at www.urbaninkwenu.com/coloring-pages

Mi'kmaq - Every Child Matters

Orange Shirt Day - National Day For Truth and Reconciliation - September 30