



September 8, 2024
16th 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.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: VU 409 Morning Has Broken Bunessan

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:

All creation is made of star-stuff. From the basic building blocks of the universe, come fire, air, earth, and water.

And all creation sings praise to the Creator of all.

Baptized by the waters of the sky, standing firm on the earth,
breathing deep the breath of life, warmed by this flame...

we go where God's light shines! 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. **We gather here, Creator God, open to new experiences of your presence. All around us the majestic wonders of your creation inspire us. We are not alone. We feel your presence and seek your truth in new and promising ways. Inspire us to be open to the new challenges you place before us, and help us to be open to the gifts of all with whom we share this journey. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

We sing: MV 79 Spirit, Open My Heart Wild Mountain Thyme

Celebrating Birthday and Anniversaries

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

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Open our spirits that we may notice everything you have created and everything you long for your creation to become, O God, Creator and Author of all that is. Amen.

A Reading from Scripture: James 2: 1-10 Bert Riggs
Faith without works is dead.

Responsive Psalm: VU p. 849 Psalm 125 (Said Refrain) Bert Riggs
Do good, O God, to those who are good.

A reading from the Gospel: Mark 7:24–37
The Syrophenician woman's faith challenges Jesus.

We sing: VU 606 In Christ There Is No East or West St. Peter

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:

Generous and loving God, in your name we dedicate these gifts for the work of your kin-dom in this place. There is much to be done to restore your Creation and rectify injustice in this world. So, with grateful hearts, we pledge to share, as we are able, our time, talents, and monetary gifts where they are needed. 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 330 Jesus Shall Reign Duke Street

We go out into the world:

God created everything as a gift of love for all to share.

May we go out into the world and continue to make God's dreams come true. 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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Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding
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