

## April 20, 2025 Easter Celebration

The people of Gower Street United Church are committed to doing right by Jesus' teachings: loving, serving, giving generously in our local, regional, and global communities. We envision a vibrant and evolving community where tradition is honoured, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged.

We are dedicated to being welcoming and affirming, engaging participation of all, including people of any age, colour, race, ethnicity, faith, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, marital status, family composition, and social or economic circumstances.



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 honour of  
**Linda (Noftall) Wells**  
with love from sister Brenda Martin & brothers, Albert & Reg Noftall  
and  
the Heavenly Birthdays for  
**Lloyd Moores Jr and Eva Moores**  
from Edward and Sharon Moores.

### **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

#### **The Life and Work of Gower**

**Voluntary:** Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630  
Christ ist erstanden, BWV 627

J.S. Bach

**Bell Choir:** Glorioso

**We sing:** VU 155 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Easter Hymn  
arr. Rutter

#### **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.

#### **Gathering Words:**

This is the place of joy.

**Christ is risen!**

This is the time of new hope.

**Christ is risen!**

This is the way of freedom.

**Christ is risen!**

Gathered with faithful friends.

**Christ is risen!**

Everything is possible now.

**Christ is risen!**

Christ is risen indeed.

**Hallelujah!**

#### **Gathering Prayer:**

**Guide us, O Great God. We are travellers on a journey of life. In our weakness, be our strength. In our fears, hold us safe in the shadow of your wings. Be bread for the journey. Be life on the way. Be our Good Shepherd. Guide us, O Great God, we ask. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 345 Come, Children join to sing (v. 1 & 2)

Madrid

#### **Exploring Easter**

**Gower Young People's Choir:** It's a Happy Day

## **THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM**

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

### ***Jesus Blesses Little Children***

*13 Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; 14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Mark 10: 13-15)*

### **Presentation of Candidates:**

*(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)*

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church, I present:

**Penelope Joy Caldwell**

child of Catherine Caldwell and David Pitt

### **The 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, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

**I do, by the grace of God.**

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice?

**I do, God being my helper.**

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your siblings in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

**I will, God being my helper.**

### **Congregational Commitment:**

Let us pledge our support and care.

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

### **Affirmation of Faith - A New Creed**

VU 918

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water:**

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation. By water comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### **Baptism in the name of the Triune God:**

*Penelope*, we baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **Marking with the Sign of the Cross:**

*Penelope*, Child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Laying on of Hands:**

*Penelope*, the power of the Holy Spirit works within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you

may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Recognizing the Candle:**

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

*Penelope*, may the candle lit for you remind us that Jesus said, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God." **Amen.**

### **Hopes and Dreams for Penelope**

### **Presentation to the Congregation**

### **Declaration and Congregational Welcome:**

There is one God, one faith, one baptism:

**By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body.**

**We are children of the one God, Parent of us all.**

**We welcome you into the community of faith.**

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

**We sing:** VU 345 Come, Children join to sing (v.3)

Madrid

### **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**A reading from Scripture:** Isaiah 65:17-25

A new heaven and earth; the wolf and the lamb together.

Ben Sawatzky

**A reading from the Gospel:** Luke 24:1-12

The woman reports that the tomb is empty.

**Gospel Response:** Alleluia

Schutz

**Carol:** This Joyful Eastertide

Dutch Carol  
Arr. Charles Wood

### **Meditation**

**Bell Choir:** Dona Nobis Pacem

**We sing:** VU 159 The Strife is O'er

Victory

### **COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH OUR MINISTRY**

You can offer your financial gifts to Gower Street United Church in many ways. As you enter/leave the sanctuary, there are offering plates where you may lay your offerings. You can also continue to drop off offerings in the secure mailbox outside the church office or you can donate via E-Transfer, using the email address [gsuc@nl.rogers.com](mailto:gsuc@nl.rogers.com). You can also scan the QR code on your mobile device to be brought directly to our website page.



### **Gathering our Gifts:**

We offer gifts from God's own provisions. Whatever they may be, all good gifts come from heaven above, entrusted from God to us as faithful stewards. Let us present our offering.

**We sing:** VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

**Offering Prayer:**

Loving God, all good gifts around us come from you. **God of all creation, thank you, that in Jesus' resurrection we arise to new life in body, mind, and spirit. Bless us as we share the abundance of this resurrection, in our witness and service, as we join creation in declaring your goodness. May we bear wonderful fruit that we might flourish in abundance and use all good gifts to live for you. Amen.**

**Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus**

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 211 Crown Him with Many Crowns

Diademata

**We go out into the world:**

Go out into the world, calling new life out of the tombs that imprison people's lives, in the name of Risen One, our light.

**May the blessings of God who created us in love, redeemed us in Jesus Christ, and sustains us by the power of the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us, now and evermore.**

**Hallelujah! Amen!**

**Choir:** The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Rutter

**Postlude:** Toccata (*from* Symphony No.5)

Widor

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent/Easter 2025, Year C.*

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

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

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

**Organist & Music Ministry:** R. Carl Goulding

**Custodian:** David Noseworthy

**Board Chair:** Patrick Griffin

*To The Glory of God*

*Donations to the Operating Fund*

In loving memory of **Florence and Donald Butler** from Donna Butler.

In loving memory of **parents Stanley & Mary Noftall, brothers Stanley & Bernard, sister Mary Elms & sisters in law Jackie, Esther, & Cynthia** from Darren & Brenda Martin & the Noftall family

In loving memory of **parents William & Addie Martin & sister Dana** from Darren & Brenda Martin

In loving memory of **grandparents, Stanley & Mary Noftall & Max & Muriel Vardy** from Russell,  
Sean & Nicole Vardy.

In loving memory of **Rudy Laite, Derick Power and other members of the Laite, Noftall and  
Kerrivan Families** from Cheryl Hanlon and Family.

In loving memory of **Alfred and Amelia Laite and other members of the Laite Noftall and  
Kerrivan Families** from Jeanette Dinn

*Donations to the Roof and Restoration Fund*

In loving memory of **the Whiteway, Wylie and Barrett families** from Ian Barrett

*Donations to the Mission & Service Fund*

In loving memory of **parents, grandparents & great-grandparents William & Mabel Jones, Harold  
& Annie Noel, brothers & uncles, Lloyd Jones & Selwyn Noel, and sister & Aunt Muriel King**  
from Darroch & Lois Jones, their children Nicole (Mathieu Larose), Stefan (Sara Slade) & Heather  
(Shane Rose) and their grandchildren Chloé Larose, Sophie Larose, Lincoln Rose, Anderson Rose,  
Sebastian Jones, and Dawson Jones.

*Donations to the Gower Community Band*

In loving memory of our dear parents **Russell & Patricia Burke**  
from Phyllis & Gail.

In loving memory of our parents, **Marston and Elizabeth Cameron and Dennis and Margaret  
Murphy, and loved ones**  
from Blair and Anita Cameron

*Donations to Organ Fund*

In loving memory of **Lester Goulding** from Elsie and family