

April 27, 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

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 loving memory of  
**Basia Price**  
from her husband, Daniel, and all of her family.

"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose.  
All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."

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

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

##### **Voluntary**

**We sing:** VU 409 Morning has Broken

##### **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:**

Let the light of Jesus pierce the deep shadows of Good Friday.

May its light shine on us these most holy days.

May it be a beacon for us, renewing all that is good within us, all the good within our community. Christ our God is risen today!

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah, indeed!**

##### **Gathering Words:**

This is the day our God has made!

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

No matter if it is sunny or rainy,  
**windy or calm.**

It is a gift to celebrate.

**This is the day our God has made.**

**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

##### **Gathering Prayer:**

It was with compassion that the women went out that first Easter morning.

**Fill us with such compassion, Loving God.**

It was with surprise that the women found the tomb empty.

**Surprise us with joy, Loving God.**

It was with freedom from loss that the women rejoiced.

**Free us from those feelings that drag us down, Loving God.**

It was among the followers of Jesus that the women shared the Good News.

**Enable us to share and accept the Good News, Loving God.**

*(a time of silent reflection)* **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **Exploring Easter**

**We sing:** VU 166 Joy Comes with the Dawn

Dawn

## **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

### **Prayer of Illumination:**

Ever-living God may your Easter story become our story.

**May the wonder and awe of lives have made whole take hold deep in our souls.**

May we receive and then live the miracle account of resurrection.

**We pray in the name of the enlivening Jesus. Amen.**

**Responsive Psalm:** VU p. 874 Psalm 150

Praise God with the sound of trumpet!

Reader: Andrew Dunsmore

**A reading from the Gospel:** John 20:19-31

Thomas doubts until he sees Jesus for himself.

## **Music Meditation**

### **Meditation**

**We sing:** MV 157 I Am a Child of God

## **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.*



**Minute for Mission:** Changing the Narrative: Young Voices for Climate Justice

## **Gathering our Gifts**

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

Old 100th

**Offering Prayer:**

**Through the peaks and valleys of life, you accompany us, O God. We offer these gifts so that stories may be shared of encounters with you on the road of life. Amen.**

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

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 703 In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Promise

**We go out into the world:**

Take this Easter Joy into your hearts.

**Christ is risen!**

Go forth now in hope

**that despair and grief are subdued, conquered, vanquished.**

Go forth now in joy

**that new life awaits us.**

Go forth now in love and share God's love every day.

**Christ is risen! Hallelujah!**

**We sing:** MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts (V. 1)

Freed

**Postlude**

*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