

## February 16, 2025 Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

**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.*

**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

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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:** Voluntary in a minor Edward Kendall

**We sing:** VU 240 Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven Lauda Anima

### **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:**

The Addison Family

Light of the World, be our guide. Reveal to us the radiant glory of hope and peace in our world too often overshadowed by injustice. Illumine the way of kindness, compassion, and harmony. Let it begin with each one of us. We pray in the name of the Jesus.

**Amen.**

### **Gathering Words:**

Blessed are you.

**Me?**

Yes! Blessed are you!

**By whom?**

By God.

**Why?**

Because.

**Because? No, really—why!?**

Because God loves you.

Because God's love is overwhelming.

Because God's love is never-ending.

Because God's love is grace—freely given.

**I am blessed.**

**We are blessed—**

any who are grieving or impoverished, any who are hungry or hated,  
any who are defamed or reviled.

**All are blessed by the grace of God. All creation is blessed.**

Exactly! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

### **Gathering Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, thank you for being here, even though we cannot see or hear or touch you.

**Thank you for the Bible, where we can read about you. Thank you for the church,**

where we can ask questions and where we find loving community. And thank you for prayer, where we can talk to you every day. Amen.

**Exploring Epiphany:** The Circle Song  
*All ages are invited to come forward as we sing*

**We sing:** VU 679 Let There Be Light Concord

### **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**Prayer of Illumination:** Grace Dunsmore  
**Holy One, Light of Sun and Stars, God of New Stories and New Directions, as we receive the stories of scripture today, remind us that you are with us on our journeys, both expected and unexpected, so that we may share your presence with all that we encounter, and the world may be changed by love. We pray in the name of the holy human child, the one we know as Jesus. Amen.**

**A reading from Scripture:** Jeremiah 17:5-10 Grace Dunsmore  
Those who trust in God are like trees planted by water.

**A reading from the Gospel:** Luke 6:17-26  
The Beatitudes upon the plain.

**Anthem:** Eternal God Rutter

### **Meditation**

**We sing:** MV 144 Like A Healing Stream

### **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 sing:** VU 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace Stuttgart

**Offering Prayer:**  
**We have felt your presence this day, O God, and the power and authority of your words. We respond with love and gratitude for all you have blessed us with in our**

**lives. Receive our offerings of money and time, signs of our devotion as your faithful and humble disciples. In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen.**

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

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 242 Let All Things Now Living

The Ash Grove

**We go out into the world:**

May the roots of our faith be planted so deep that, even in times when no rain falls and no rivers flow, we may thrive and flourish as God's beloved people.

**May God's love for us be a wellspring of life, and may we learn to freely share what we have been given.**

And may the blessing of .....Amen.

**We sing:** VU 966 Amen

Dresden

**Postlude:** The Prince of Denmark's March

Clarke

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, 2024/2025, Year C.*

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