

## July 20, 2025 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Pride Parade Sunday

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. This province of Newfoundland and Labrador is home to diverse populations of Indigenous and other peoples who have contributed to 9,000 years of history. We acknowledge with respect the deep histories and cultures of the Mi'kmaq, Innu, and Inuit. 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 seekers of justice, 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:** MV 1 Let Us Build a House

Two Oaks

#### **Words of Welcome and Land Acknowledgement:**

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 & Rainbow Candle:**

Light should be understood as more than simply a generic light. Light can be opened into the entire spectrum of colours.

#### **Light can overcome fear and shadows and guide us on our way.**

Light may reveal a particular vision, an insight, an inspiration that opens the door to understanding life and relationships in new ways.

#### **This morning, we light these candles, naming Jesus in our lives as life-giving in a full spectrum of dimensions.**

*The candles are lit.*

#### **Gathering Words:**

Enter, this Sunday, through doors open wide, welcoming all as we celebrate Pride!

#### **We bring our full lives, both joyful and messy, and wear what affirms us, casual or dressy.**

So, come now, to worship, no one's thought odd,

**for we are all equal as children of God!**

#### **Gathering Prayer:**

Loving God, in Jesus, you gave us one who lived inclusion. **Jesus welcomed and spent time with those living in poverty and those whom society deemed powerless. You call us to seek and live inclusion: to notice those who are newcomers and acknowledge those who seem alone and lonely, to learn from those who have a different gender or sexual orientation from ours, to work with those who understand the world quite differently, to laugh with those from many different cultures, and to discuss with those whose faith is expressed in ways that are unfamiliar to us. Help us to become the beloved community you would have us be. Thanks be to you, our welcoming and inclusive God. Amen.**

**We sing:** MV 173 Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

#### **Prayer of Confession:**

In peace, we can let your light touch our deepest place, Rock of Ages, Rainbow of Love.

#### **We slip, we err, we lose our way.**

In quiet moments, we can confess the sin that has harmed us and the sin by which others have been harmed.

**We often behave as if we are not loved,**

as if you do not love every other creature,

**as if we are not lovable at all.**

*(a time of silent prayer)*

Touch us with your light, we pray.

**Let us glow with the rainbow light of love.**

**Words of Assurance:**

Love persists. Love knocks on the door and doesn't stop. Love waits for us to open and welcome it in. Be assured that you are lovable and loved. Be assured that you have endless love within you because you are God's beloved child. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**A reading from the Gospel:** Luke 10 38 - 42

Jesus visits Mary and Martha.

Larry Kelly

**We sing:** MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts

Freed

**Meditation**

**Musical Reflection**

**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 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:** MV 191 What Can I Do?

**Offering Prayer:**

**Beloved One, we offer our thanks for the holy witness in the lives of 2SLGBTQIA+ people. In the practices of community, of love that takes risks, and of telling the truth—even when it's costly—Jesus lives on. In appreciation of all the sacred gifts of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, we offer our thanks and these gifts. Amen.**

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

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

**We go out into the world:**

We go out with God's blessing, to be our own Pride parade:

**Declaring our truth, celebrating our unique gifts, and sharing love, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**We sing:** MV 156 Dance with the Spirit (x2)

**Postlude**

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 1, 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