

## June 22, 2025 Second Sunday after Pentecost

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  
**Raymond Ryan, father, Betty Ryan, mother and Melinda Ryan, sister**  
from Diane Ryan

### THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

#### The Life and Work of Gower

#### Voluntary

**We sing:** VU 651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM Rhondda

#### 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:

Today, we gather to thank our Wondrous God for pouring out the Holy Spirit upon us, God's life-giving, fiery, loving Spirit.

**We gather to thank Jesus for coming to us to teach us God's ways.**

We gather before God and in the company of each other to sing, to worship, to praise God's holy name.

**Let us renew our spirits in God's loving presence.**

Let us worship our God!

#### Gathering Prayer:

Gracious God, you come among us in abundant joy, unsettling truth, deep consolation, and powerful transformation.

**Yours are winds of change, hastening us toward a kin-dom of inclusion and justice not yet known in this world.**

Move and mould us. Convert and transform us.

**Through your many witnesses, show us your way, so that we may be a community that embodies your love, here and now. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre

Beach Spring

### LISTENING TO THE STORY

**Sung Psalm:** VU p.766 Psalm 42

As a deer longs for the water.

**A reading from the Gospel:** Luke 8:26-39

Jesus heals a man filled with demons.

**We sing:** VU 570 Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

Au Claire De La Lune

#### Meditation

#### Musical Meditation

### 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:**

A beloved song by Leonard Cohen reminds us that there is no perfect offering, that everything has a crack that allows the light to enter.

### **We gather and bring our offerings.**

Even though our gifts may seem paltry, each one represents work, struggles, and possibilities.

**We pray that in their imperfection, they may still offer significant hope and light that shines through the world's cracks, and shines through us in our act of sharing.**

We give our offering.

**We sing:** VU 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace

Stuttgart

### **Offering Prayer:**

It's not the gifts; it is what the gifts will do.

**We pray that these gifts of money will provide compassionate care to all who are feeling alone and lost.**

We pray that these gifts of time will enable all who are sick to be encouraged and all who are newcomers to feel at home.

**We pray that these gifts of talent will enable young people to be taught and nurtured and all who are housebound know friendship.**

It's not the gifts; it is what the gifts will do.

**Loving God, bless these gifts as they faithfully go to work through this community of faith. 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:**

We gathered in this place to learn about God's dream that created the world,

**a dream that gave us breath,**

a dream that gave us life,

**a dream that gave us love,**

a dream that called us to dance with Wisdom.

**We have shared prayer and song, committing ourselves anew to following God's Son, Jesus.**

Holding God's dream, given to us in love, we go forth with open minds, hearts, and souls to bring God's dream to the world.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 481 Sent Forth by God's Blessing (v.2)

The Ash Grove

### **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