

May 18, 2025
5th 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.

99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145
E-Mail: office@gowerunited.com Website: <https://gowerunited.com>

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:

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:

May the light radiating from this candle be a sign and symbol of Jesus' amazing grace!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Gathering Words:

People of God, we come together on this Sabbath day of rest!

We come together to express gratitude for God's abundance!

We celebrate Creator God's awesome universe!

We come together for spiritual refreshment!

Let us worship our amazing God!

Gathering Prayer:

God of love, lover of creation, we thank you for the wisdom you offer so that we may discover your way of living with respect in creation.

We thank you for the Spirit of discernment and the guidance of your Son, who journeyed before us and who travels beside us, laying his hands on our shoulders and reminding us of your love that surrounds us as we journey on this earth. Amen.

Exploring Easter

We sing: MV 115 Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New
(Sung twice)

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination:

Creator God, as we receive the words of scripture today, may we understand the love and tenderness in you as you care for us, your precious children.

Learning your word just like the disciples did so long ago, may we discover a connection to our own lives and may the lessons fortify us for the week ahead. Amen.

Responsive Psalm: VU p. 871 Psalm 148 Naomi Addison
Let the whole creation praise God. Hymns Ancient and Modern

A reading from the Gospel: John 13:31-35
A new commandment: love one another.

Response: Hallelujah!

Schutz

Anthem

Meditation

We sing: VU 595 We Are Pilgrims

Servant Song

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. 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 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

Offering Prayer:

Life-giving God, the earth overflows with your abundant blessings, the miracles of your creation, and yet there are too many shortages in our world.

Your love knows no bounds, your care for us is limitless, and yet there are too many who gather more than they need.

Awaken us, your people, to notice the cries of hunger, and rouse us to find the ways so that all have food.

Take these gifts as our promise today to trust in your unfailing goodness. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: MV 30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

We go out into the world:

It has been a morning for reflection, for fellowship and discussion on the beauty of God's unconditional love.

We take all our creativity, our awe of this world, our love for one another and for creation, and our actions, to make it a better place as we go out into the world.

Leave this place full of the glory and blessings of God our Lover.

Hallelujah! Amen!

We sing: VU 884 You Shall Go Out with Joy

Trees of the Field

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