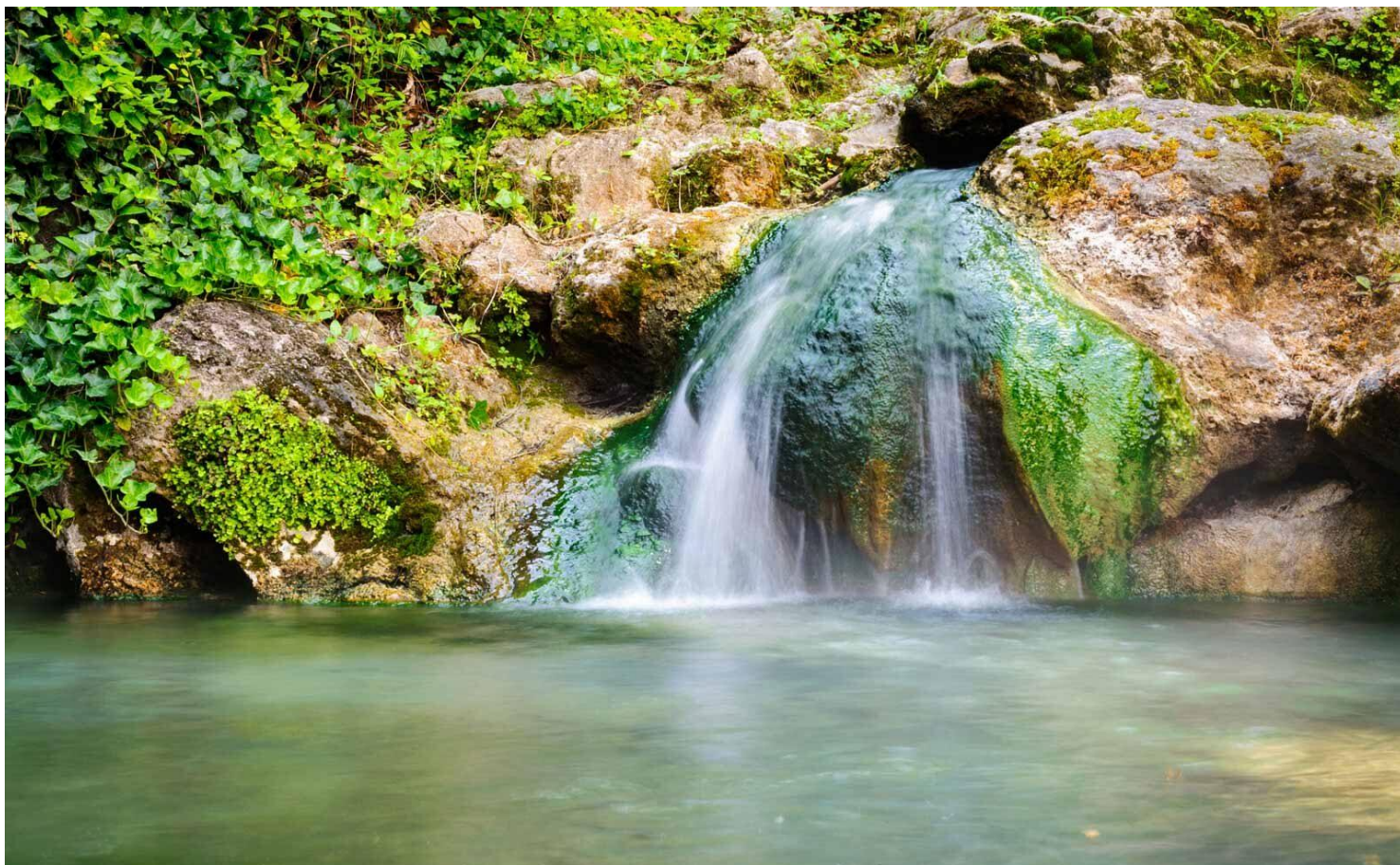


May 25, 2025
6th Sunday of Easter

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 recognition
of the May 22nd heavenly birthday of brother and uncle Robert (Bob) Green of Valleyfield.
Commemorating also the 5-year anniversary of our Facebook site, Bob Green's Shop,
dedicated to memories and community building of his 45 years
in service to the family business.
From Marie-Beth, Carl and family.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: MV 176 Three Things I Promise

Blann

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:

Light illumines the shadows of the empty tomb

and gives hope to despair.

Light shows us the way

so that we do not stumble in the shadows.

Light gives us hope

and shows us that we do not need to live in fear and sorrow.

Let us welcome the light of Jesus.

Gathering Words:

Let us gather to praise God,

our God who is great in wonder and majesty.

Let us praise our God for God's graciousness and compassion,

our God who is full of mercy and forgiveness.

Let us praise our God for God's everlasting trust and faithfulness,

our God who is just and good.

Come, let us worship and praise God.

Gathering Prayer:

Spirit of Life and Love, you call us: you call us to be more than we are now, more than we can be on our own. **We pray that we may be open to your leading, open to your love, open to your transforming presence, ready to have new life breathed into us so that we can more fully be your people. Amen.**

Exploring Easter

We sing: VU 710 Shall We Gather at the River

Hanson Place

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination:

Jill Handrigan

God of Love, we are ready for your good news. **Let it abide deep within our souls. May we receive this scripture and the reflection with an openness of spirit, a keenness of mind, and a willingness to engage with your timeless story. Amen.**

Responsive Psalm:

VU p. 786 Psalm 67

Let the light of God's face shine upon us.

A reading from the Gospel:

John 5:1-9

A sick man cured at the pool of Bethesda

Meditation

Music Reflection

We sing:

MV 79 Spirit Open My Heart

Wild Mountain Thyme

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. You can also scan the QR code on your mobile device to be brought directly to our website page.



Mission & Service Stories:

Rooted in History, Reaching for Tomorrow

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 of encounters with you on the road of life may be shared. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing:

VU 713

I See a New Heaven

We go out into the world:

Christ of the morning's rising blesses you.

Christ of the moon's setting blesses you.

Christ by the lakeside edge blesses you.

Christ of the birdsong hymns blesses you.

Christ of all creation, all the gifts of creation, blesses you.

Christ of the fruits of the earth blesses you.

Christ within you.

Christ around you.

Christ in creation.

Blesses you, keeps you, holds you, from the dawning of the day to its dawn again.

All your days. All your places.

Until our life here becomes our life in Christ forever. Christ of Easter blesses us always. Amen.

We sing: VU 559 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing Nettleton

Postlude: Biblical Sonata No.1 (Mvt.4 & 5) Kuhlau

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