

## October 26, 2025 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost Women's Suffrage Baptism

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:** Sicilienne Maria von Paradis

**We sing:** VU 684 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace  
Channel of Peace

#### **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.

#### **Light of Faith:**

Lighting this candle of faith, we honor 100 years of women's suffrage in Newfoundland and Labrador—**a flame sparked by courage, carried by hope, and burning still for justice and equality.**

#### **Gathering Prayer:**

Gracious and loving Creator,

**We gather in gratitude today, standing on the shoulders of the brave women who came before us— those who raised their voices, cast their votes, and changed the course of history.**

As we mark 100 years since women first won the right to vote in Newfoundland and Labrador, **we give thanks for their courage, their vision, and their unwavering resolve in the face of resistance.**

Bless this gathering with reflection and remembrance.

**May we honor the legacy of those who fought for equality, and may their determination continue to inspire justice, dignity, and inclusion for all. Amen.**

**Choir:** Child of Blessing, Child of Promise, Vs. 1 Stuttgart

#### **Welcoming Baby Matilda**

**“Welcome Baby Matilda”**

### **THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM**

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

#### ***Jesus Blesses Little Children***

*13 Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; 14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Mark 10: 13-15)*

#### **Presentation of Candidates:**

*(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)*

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church, I present:

**Matilda Ruth Cameron**

child of Patrick and Kathleen Cameron

#### **The Profession of Faith and Promises:**

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile

and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit? **I do, by the grace of God.**

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice? **I do, God being my helper.**

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ? **I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your siblings in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, and love and serve others? **I will, God being my helper.**

### **Congregational Commitment:**

Let us pledge our support and care.

**As a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the wider community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism. Amen.**

### **Affirmation of Faith - A New Creed**

VU 918

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Parent in Heaven, whose love knows no bounds,  
Your name is holy, held in the highest regard.  
May Your realm of love, acceptance, and justice come,  
May Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,  
Guiding us to honour each other's dignity and worth.  
Give us today our daily bread, the sustenance we need,  
And forgive us our prejudices as we forgive those who are prejudiced against us,  
Lead us away from judgment, and deliver us from the hands of hatred.  
For Yours is the realm of unconditional love, the power to change hearts,  
And the glory of diversity in unity, now and forever.  
May all of us, created beautifully and wonderfully in Your image,  
Live and love in the spirit of Your Son, who taught us to pray,  
Embracing each other, as You embrace us all. Amen.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water:**

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation. By water comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### **Baptism in the name of the Triune God:**

*Matilda*, we baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **Marking with the Sign of the Cross:**

*Matilda*, Child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Laying on of Hands:**

*Matilda*, the power of the Holy Spirit works within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Recognizing the Candle:**

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

*Matilda*, may the candle lit for you remind us that Jesus said, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God." **Amen.**

### **Hopes and Dreams for Matilda**

### **Presentation to the Congregation**

### **Declaration and Congregational Welcome:**

There is one God, one faith, one baptism:

**By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body. We are children of the one God, Parent of us all. We welcome you into the community of faith.**

**We sing:** VU 454 May God Who Creates You

### LISTENING TO THE STORY

#### **Prayer for Illumination:**

Gracious and Holy One, may the reading of these holy words inspire and move us to act with justice, peace, and work for God's kin-dom! **Amen.**

**A reading from Scripture:** Proverbs 31: selected verses

"Strength and dignity are her clothing..." (v. 25)

Dr. Marion Pardy

**Choir:** Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom, vs 1 Madeline

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

"Do you not care...?" (v. 40)

**Solo:** Megan Barnes

**Meditation** Dr. Margot Duley

**We sing:** MV 1 Let Us Build a House. Vs. 1 Two Oaks

### 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:**

Everything we have is a gift from God, so we return some of these gifts back to God, in gratitude. Our offering is...

**We sing:** VU 541 Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow  
Old 100th

#### **Offering Prayer:**

Remembering the faithfulness of those who have gone before us, grateful that you call us to share in the joy of spreading your love, knowing that what we offer makes a difference in the healing of the world, we bring our gifts, O God. **Bless them, bless us, and bless this church as we seek to serve you in all the places life calls us to be. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

**We sing:** VU 678 For the Healing of the Nations  
Westminster Abbey

#### **We go out into the world:**

May we go forth with the courage of those who marched, spoke, and stood when silence was expected.

**May we go forth as their legacy kindles in us a deeper commitment to justice, inclusion, and equality for all.**

And may we walk forward in unity, with hope in our hearts, and strength in our stride. Go in peace, with purpose.

**We give thanks to God. Amen!**

**Threefold Amen**

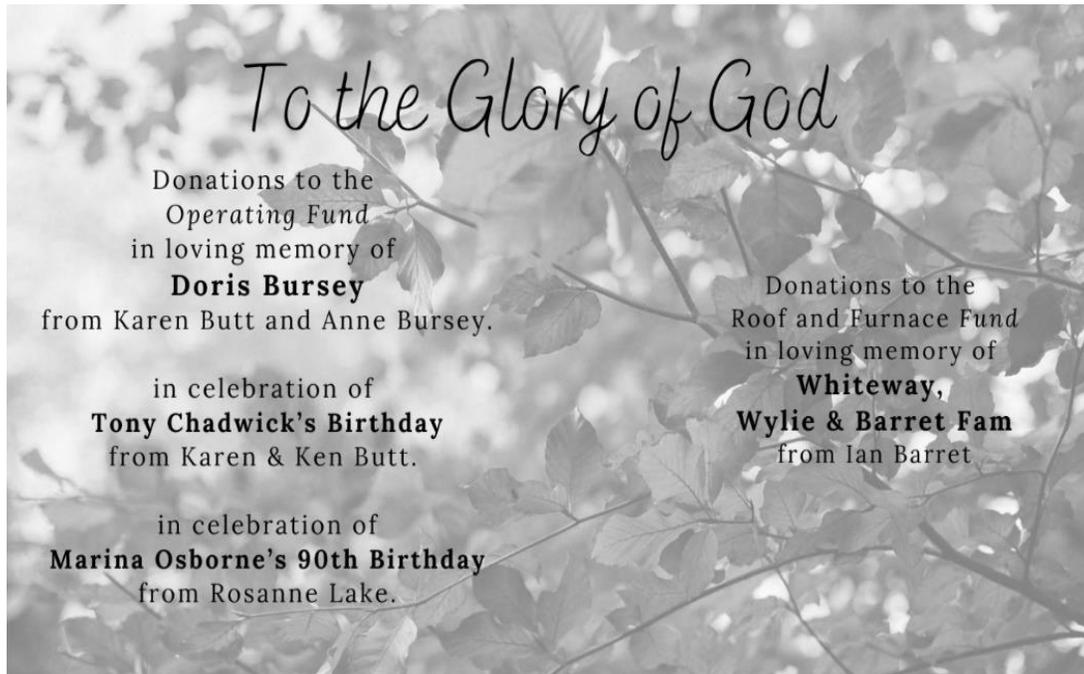
**Danish**

**Postlude:** See, the Conquering Hero Come (Chorus) and  
March (*from* Judas Maccabeus) Handel

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 2, 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 Parry  
**Organist & Music Ministry:** R. Carl Goulding  
**Custodian:** David Noseworthy  
**Board Chair:** Jonathan Stevenson



### **What's Up At Gower**

**Condolences:** We extend our condolences to the family of Merle Sandland, who passed away on October 19, 2025, in Nova Scotia.

**2025 Gower Online Auction:** How you can help make it a success! We are seeking your help in obtaining donations of items and in particular items exceeding \$100 in value for this year's online Auction. We will be providing a tax-deductible receipt for all items exceeding this amount, so please be our ambassador in soliciting donations from business or individuals who can provide such items. An official letter that you can provide any potential donors can be picked up at the Church. Please bring items to the Church Office on November 12 to 15 or 18 and 19 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The Auction, which will be found at [www.bartlettauctions.com](http://www.bartlettauctions.com), will open at noon on Sunday, November 23 and close the following Sunday, November 30 at 7:00pm! We look forward to your support and if you have any questions please contact Bert Riggs [service\\_club@gowerunited.com](mailto:service_club@gowerunited.com) or Lorne LeDrew ([stewardship@gowerunited.com](mailto:stewardship@gowerunited.com)).

**Food Drive:** We will be holding a Food Drive for Bridges to Hope during October. We invite you to bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations for Bridges to Hope to worship on Sundays or drop them off during office hours during October.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support from The Centennial Granting Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation, which helped bring this event to life.



Dr. Margot I. Duley, holds degrees from Memorial University, (BA Hons.), Duke University (MA) and the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (Ph.D. in South Asian and British Imperial History). Her most recent books are *From Silence to Suffrage: Women's Path to Citizenship in Newfoundland, 1803-1949* (Boulder Books, 2025) and *Extraordinary Passages: The Life and Times of Margaret Iris Duley, Newfoundland's Pathbreaking Novelist* (Memorial University Press, 2024). She has also authored articles and book chapters on Newfoundland women's patriotic work during World War One, Armine Gosling, the suffrage leader, Nurse Mona Loder's service on the Western Front, and Margaret Peace, a 19th century poet and temperance leader. She is Professor Emerita of History at Eastern Michigan University and Dean Emerita of the College of Arts and Sciences, the University of Illinois, Springfield.