

April 19, 2026
Celebrating EARTH DAY
and the SACRAMENT of 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. 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.



Artwork by: Caleb Butt

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

Gathering Music

We sing: VU 375 Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit of Gentleness

Words of Welcome:

Rev. Karen

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. A special welcome our baptismal family. Today we are marking the beginning of "Earth Week" with leadership from members of our Youth Group and perhaps of the younger members of our congregation. It is our hope and prayer that you will feel uplifted, encouraged and connected by our time together.

Call to Worship:

Sadie Butt

Come, all who seek the way of love,

We come to praise & worship the God of extravagant welcome.

Come, all who seek vitality,

We come to praise & worship the God of abundant life.

Come, all who seek connection,

We come to praise and worship the God of all Creation.

Gathering Prayer:

Jasmine Gill

Wondrous God, breathe new life into us this day.

By your Spirit, fill us with your joy and with your peace.

Compassionate God, lift our hearts and ease our burdens.

Renew our lives. Strengthen us in love and courage.

Inspire us to live by what we say we value and what we believe,
to have determination to work together for a better future.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen

We sing: MV 122 This is the Day that God has Made

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 Candidate:

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

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

Shiloh Masai Miguel

child of Zuri Miguel and Tylor Hurley

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 supporting and upholding 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

We are not alone. We live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

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:

SHILOH Masai Miguel, 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:

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

Laying on of Hands: (family members will come forward)

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

Receiving the Light: (Rep. of Worship & Sacraments Committee)

Shiloh, may this 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.**

Sharing Hopes and Dreams

Declaration and Presentation to the Congregation

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: MV 1611 have Called you by Your Name

A Story for Earth Day: “Sometimes I feel like a River”

by Danielle Daniel, with illustrations by Josee Bisailon

A Song with Children & Youth: “If I were a Butterfly”

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Gospel Reading: Job 12: 7-10

Caleb Butt

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, the birds of the air, and they will tell you...”

Youth Presentation: Reflections on Caring for the Earth Charlotte Powell, Jasmine Gill, and Becca Bartlett

A Song for Earth Day composed and sung by:

Becca Bartlett

The Call to Live with Respect:

Jasmine Gill

We, humans, are but one strand in a web of life,
and only one being among many relations.

All parts of creation has a place and a right to live for its season.

The land and waters are not resources to be exhausted.

Serious disruption and harm has been caused

by disrespecting the balance of nature,

by taking more than we need to live,

and doing things for convenience or for financial gain.

As followers of Christ, we want to be part of building a more hopeful future. We seek to live with respect in
Creation today

and for seven generations to come.

And we call on all people to do likewise, for the sake of Mother Earth.

Prayer of Concern for the Earth and all Creation:

Rev. Karen

The earth is our home. All life is connected.

When we harm the earth, we harm ourselves.

Our kin, the flora and fauna are calling.

The earth, the sea, and the sky join in.

Mother Earth is hurting.

They cry, “We need you to act with us.”

They call, “We need you to join us in restoring Creation
so that our mother may flourish once more.”

“We need you”, they plead. But many are not listening.

Compassionate God, open our ears and ears.

Help us to pay better attention.

There are consequences to our actions.

There are consequences to our not acting.

How do we faithfully respond to these calls?... [moment of silence]
What would you have us do? How would you have us act?

**Guide us, we pray, and lead us towards actions that care,
heal and bring new life.**

We also pray this day for our troubled world, with its tensions and wars, thinking about the conflicts and violence in the Middle East, the devastation in various countries, especially in Palestine, in Ukraine, Sudan, Israel and Iran as well as many other places. Open hearts that are hardened with hatred. Move enemies towards reconciliation and a just peace. We pray for people who are living as refugees, suffering because of wars, as well as because of devastation due to climate change. Help us to not turn away, and to do all we can to speak up, to confront injustice, to help all who are suffering. In Christ's name we pray, remembering that Jesus taught his followers to pray together, and so we also pray saying, **"Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thine name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

Pat Mayberry

A Connecting Moment with Affirm re Earth Day: Jill Handrigan

Visit website: earthday.ca

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH OUR MINISTRY

Rev. Karen: *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.*



Invitation to Offering our Gifts:

Jasmine Gill

We so often take for granted the breaths we take, the sips of water we drink, and solid ground beneath our bodies holding us up. We pause in this moment to remind one another that these are basic things, at are also essential for health and life. We are one, in blessing and in need, for each breath, each sip, each patch of earth we share.

In gratitude for life itself, we are invited to share our gifts with God through our church family here at Gower Street United, to multiply and extend the blessings for the sake of all creation.

We Sing: MV 191 What Can I Do?

Offering Prayer:

Charlotte Powell

With our time, with our talents, with our treasures, and with our trust, we respond to the cries of creation.

Bless our actions in all our offerings this day.

**May they bear fruit beyond our imagining,
for the sake of all your children and all your Creation. Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith:

Sadie Butt

In the end, we believe that love will transform us.

The current climate emergency compels us to act out of love for Creation.

**Our faith teaches us that acts of love, no matter the size,
strengthen the love that we share with one another
and with Creation.**

While our hope and love can be tested, it cannot be measured.

No act of sincere love is ever wasted.

We believe that in all things, we are strengthened through Christ who loves us and all of God's Creation.

And with this strength, we are convinced that there is nothing, neither death nor life, **neither angels nor rulers, nor suffering, nor fear,** nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, **nor anything else that will be able to separate us from our Creator & God's Good Creation.**

(Adapted from Romans 8)

Words of Thanks to Youth Group Co-leader, Becca Bartlett

by Meghan McKibbon of the Gower Children, Education & Families Committee

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 229 God of the Sparrow

Roeder Roeder

We go out into the world:

Sadie Butt

May we have the wisdom to discern, the courage to act, and the compassion to serve.

May our actions protect God's Creation, reflect Christ's justice, and share the Spirit's hope to present and future generations.

And may the abundant Grace of God, the extravagant love of Christ, and the transformational power of the Holy Spirit be with us all,

as we act each day for Creation. **Amen!**

We sing: VU 454 May God Who Creates You

Postlude: Trumpet Tune

Purcell

Worship resources for today were inspired by the United Church of Canada Earth Day 2026 "In Love of Creation Prayer Service." © 2026 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike (by-nc-sa) Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0. The song, "If I were Butterfly" was written by Brian M. Howard, published by Mission Hills Music. Request for permission submitted. CCLI-35445. All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-700000 or CCLI Copyright License: 3157095 & Streaming License: 21279189. No portion of services may be recorded or distributed without explicit permission from Gower Street United Church.

Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter

Interim Youth and Young Families Minister: Rev. Karen Thorne

Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding

Custodian: David Noseworthy

Board Chair: Jonathan Stevenson