

## June 21, 2026 National Indigenous Peoples Day

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.**

## THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

### **The Life and Work of Gower**

#### **Voluntary :**

Prélude Du Sixième Ton  
From Chabonne in F minor

Giles Jullien  
Pachelbel

**We sing:** VU 402 We Are One

We Are One

#### **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:**

Taking care....**of one another.**

Taking care....**of the world.**

Taking care....**with each other.**

Taking care....**with the Word.**

We are stewards of all God's things.

**We are stewards of all God's gifts.**

We are stewards of all God's Creation.

**So, we must take care.**

In our living, in our sharing, in our acting, in our caring...

**we worship 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 mold 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:** MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts

Freed

## LISTENING TO THE STORY

#### **A responsive reading from sacred scripture:**

Psalm 86:1-10,16-17 (VU. p.803)

Turn your ear to me, O God.

#### **A reading from the Gospel:** Matthew 10:24-39

Discipleship: Lose your life to find it.

**We sing:** VU 381 Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life

#### **Meditation**

#### **Musical Reflection**

## **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:** MV 191 What Can I Do?

### **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.**

We pray that these gifts will work for reconciliation and peace amongst all peoples, especially our Indigenous siblings.

**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 and our world. Amen.

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**We sing together:** The Prayer of Jesus

## **WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 292 Creating God, We Give You Thanks

Wareham

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

Our service of praise and thanks is ending.

**Our lives of love and service continue.**

Go from here united. **Go from here uplifted.**

Go from here with compassion and concern.

**Go from here embracing Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice.**

Go into the world to follow Jesus and live with love. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Postlude:** Trumpet Tune (Homage to the 18th century) Johnson

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2026, Year C.*

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**Minister:** The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

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

**Interim Youth & Family Minister:** The Rev. Karen Thorne

**Minister Emeritus:** The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

**Organist & Music Ministry:** R. Carl Goulding

**Custodian:** David Noseworthy

**Board Chair:** Jonathan Stevenson