

We light our candle today 21st Sunday after Pentecost 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. 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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Leadership Today: Rev. Karen Thorne & Mr. Stephen Connors

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 Celebration of **Aidan's christening** from little Cousins Jasiah, Blake, Junior, and Celeste

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.

The Light of Faith: As we light our candles today our eyes are drawn to the light, to the warmth, to the glow of the flame. As we come together in faith, to encourage one another, we are reminded of the light which is the Spirit of the living God, the mysterious, unquenchable power of Love and Life that was, and is and is yet to come.

Gathering Words:

Come, let us gather in the warm glow of God's love.

In the midst of life, we gather to remind one another that we are not alone.

Come, let us gather, recognizing that our lives are not just separate, **How wonderful to care for one another, to share and help one another along the way!**

Come, let us reconnect with one another and with our God, who connects all people and matters together with kindness and compassion.

We are here, to care, to live fully, to live deeply, because we are all one in the Spirit!

Gathering Prayer:

Gracious Creator, thank you for all the ways you bless our days and our nights. Even when we have challenges, frustrations, or hard times, you help us to discover silver linings and graces along the way. You give us strength to carry on. Bless us today as we lift our hearts and open our lives to you, in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We Sing: VU 644 I was There to Hear Your Bornng Cry

Waterlife

THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

Scripture: Mark 10:13-15 Jesus Blesses Little Children

Presentation of Candidate: *(Mr. Bert Riggs, W & S Committee)*

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church,

I present **Aidan Gerard Vincent Raymond,**

Child of Leah Raymond & Bradley Raymond.

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 (*Please stand as you are able*) Let us speak of our faith together through the words of the United Church's "A New Creed":

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

Baptism in the name of the Triune God

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Laying on of Hands

Recognizing the Candle: (*Mr. Bert Riggs*)

Aidan, 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.**

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,

**Mother and Father of us all.
We welcome you into the community of faith.**

We listen together: May God Who Creates You VU 454

May God who creates you give you light;
May God who sustains you make you wise;
May God who protects you give you joy,
May God who surrounds you give you peace.

(Gower Learners will exit for their group at this time)

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Tony Chadwick

God of all new beginnings, as we share words from the scriptures this day, we humbly ask that you would help us to discern your will and ways for all of our lives. As we meditate on your Word, speak into our souls as if for the first time. Open our ears to hear, and our minds to understand, and our hearts to welcome, a word of good news for us all and for the world you so love. Amen.

A reading from Scripture: Isaiah 45:1-7

Tony Chadwick

I am the Lord, who calls you by your name

A reading from the Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Give to God what is God's

Anthem: In Christ Alone

Meditation:

Mr. Stephen Connors

We sing: VU 575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'm Gonna Live

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.



Gathering our Gifts

We sing: VU 543 We Give Thee But Thine Own

Franconia

Prayer of Dedication:

Wondrous God, bless our gifts and our lives as we offer them to you for your service and for the blessing of a world with many needs. May they be magnified to the glory of your name, which is pure, abundant Love. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 678 For the Healing of the Nations

Westminster Abbey

We go out into the world:

Each one, and all of us - We all have a voice, a heart, and a story to share.
May we go forth, inspired to speak, to share, to act out of love.

When we dare to act with compassion and courage,
we can trust that God will be with us.

**May we be DARING in our calls for justice,
BOLD in living out our discipleship, and
DEEP in our journeying within to dwell in the Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Threefold Amen

Danish

Postlude: Festal Voluntary

Jacobs

Printed prayers for today were written by Rev. Karen Thorne.

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Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald (on leave)
Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter (on leave)
Interim Youth and Family 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

WHAT'S UP AT GOWER

Gower Handbell Choir: Greetings to former, current and new Bell Choir members! After retiring recently and doing some travelling this Fall I will be back in town at the end of November. Bell Choir will resume practices on Dec 2nd. We will be practicing at the usual timeslot of Wednesdays at 6:30 preparing for the Christmas season. There will not be a rehearsal on Dec 23rd. If you are interested in participating in either of the Christmas performances (Advent 4Dec. 20th Sunday church service Eve and CHRISTMAS EVE), please let me know by Nov 27th in order to prepare for the first rehearsal. Thanks, Dana Collins. Please Email: djmcollins331@gmail.com

Gower Service and Social Club GSSC

next dinner and meeting will be:

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6 PM.

Menu: salad, pot roast with all the trimmings, followed by dessert and tea/coffee.

Cost of Dinner: \$20

After dinner speaker: Dr. DAN PRICE

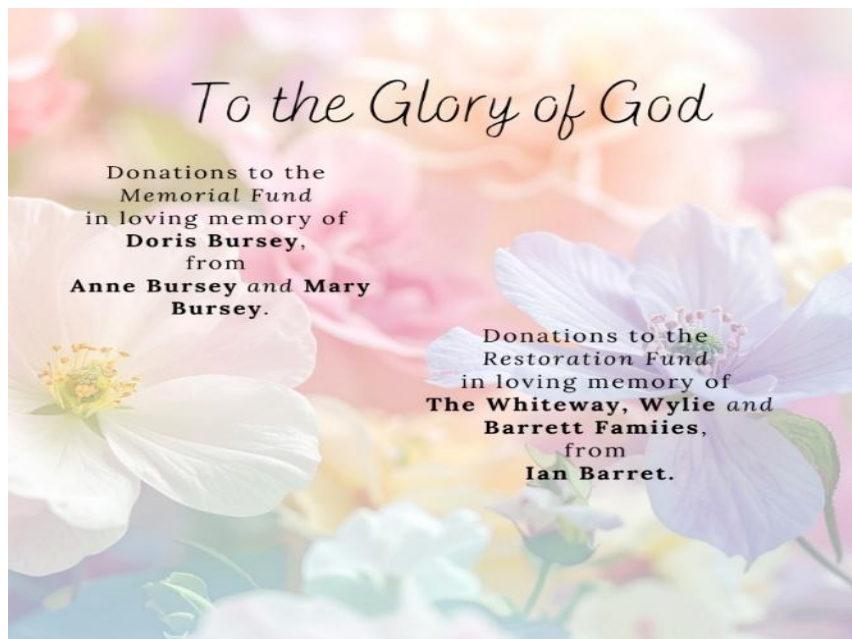
Topic: KEEPING HONEYBEES.

To RESERVE YOUR Ticket: Please email karen12nl@gmail.com no later than Sunday, October 18th

GIVING TO GOWER – HOW TO DONATE TO GOWER?

Ways to maintain your financial support of our church -There are options available!

- Sign up for P.A.R. (Pre-Authorized Contributions), or consider increasing your contribution if you are already on P.A.R. This can be done by contacting the office by phone (709-753-7286) or by email (office@gowerunited.com)
- You can also go to our website by clicking the DONATE below
- We also accept e-transfer. Just send it to gsuc@nl.rogers.com
- You may also send a cheque via mail or drop it in the dropbox accessible to the right of the office entrance. Our mailing address is 99 Queens Road, St. John's, N.L., A1C 6M6



A wonderful honour for a remarkable leader!

The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, 37th Moderator of The United Church of Canada will be invested in the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador—the province’s highest honour—on October 8. Rev. Dr. Pardy is being recognized for her humanitarian work and her longstanding leadership in faith, social justice, and interfaith community-building. Join us in celebrating this well-deserved recognition of Rev. Dr. Pardy’s service to her community and beyond. Read the full story: 37th Moderator Pardy to Be Invested in the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador | The United Church of Canada

