



**December 1, 2024  
Advent One - Hope**

**Gower Street United Church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background, or sexual orientation.**



*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 bulleting is dedicated in loving memory of sister and brother-in-law,  
Daisy and Lindy Elliott from Marion Pardy.**

### **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

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

**Voluntary:** Three Preludes on "Fröhlich soll mein Herz springen" Johann Walter

**We sing:** VU 25 Lo, He Comes in Clouds Descending Helmsley

#### **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:**

Hope, in the midst of fear.

Hope, in the midst of sorrow.

Hope, when it seems hopeless. God offers hope.

**We come seeking that hope.**

**We come seeking a new dream.**

**We come seeking God-with-Us.**

**We gather and wait for this promised hope.**

#### **Moderator's Advent Message**

#### **Lighting of the Advent Candle:**

The Dunsmore Family

**We sing:** VU 7 Hope Is a Star (v. 1)

Moon Beams

On this first Sunday of Advent, we come with hope as a community of faith.

**We watch, we wait, we wonder.**

We come in hope for God's promise to bring light to this world.

**We wait in hope for the coming of Jesus, the Christ child.**

As we light the first candle in our wreath, we take a moment to breathe in the Spirit of hope. (*Take a breath, then light the candle.*)

**Advent Response:** We Wait in Hope

Joel Ramsey

#### **Gathering Prayer:**

God of hope, on this first Sunday of Advent, fill us with hope for the world and for our faith community, knowing that Jesus brings a light of hope to a weary world. **We gather as a people of hope. Amen.**

#### **Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Judi Somers

**We sing:** VU 579 v. 2 The Church Is Wherever God's People

**Exploring Advent:** VU 340 Jesus, Friend of Little Children (vs. 1 & 2) Farnham

*All ages are invited to come forward as we sing*

## LISTENING TO THE STORY

**We sing:** VU 7 Hope Is a Star

Moon Beams

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

O God of Hope, **bless this reading that it may inspire us today as we struggle to believe in an unbelieving world. Strengthen us as we take these words into our homes, workplaces, and schools, that we may find ways to witness for you. Amen.**

**A reading from the Hebrew Scripture:** Jeremiah 33:14-16

A righteous branch from David's line.

**A reading from the Gospels:** Luke 21:25-36

Signs in the heavens and on earth, parable of the fig tree.

**Advent Gospel Response:**

Alleluia

Norah Duncan

**Anthem:** People Look East

### **Meditation**

**We sing:** VU 20 On Jordan's Bank

Winchester New

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

*The offering plates are located near the sanctuary doors. You are invited to place your offerings there when you arrive or leave. You can also scan the QR code on our bulletin to donate via our website.*

### **Advent Unwrapped**

#### **Gathering our Gifts:**

The kin-dom comes closer through our thoughts, our prayerful action, and our considerate deeds. One way of finding the kin-dom is through our giving of time, talents and money. May our giving be an agent of hope in your world; lifting people up in hope so that they can experience an abundant future.

**We sing:** VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

#### **Offering Prayer:**

Spirited God, your gift of hope comes to us through the advent of the Christ child. **We offer these gifts back to you as signs of hope: hope that nestles into your loving presence, hope that these donations help turn the world upside down, hope that trusts in your promise of transformation, hope that opens us to strangers, to neighbours and to friends. Bless our journey on the Way of Jesus. Amen.**

### **Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus**

## WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

**We sing:** VU 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

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

Surely God is our hope.

#### **We wait in hope.**

For God is our strength and our might.

**We watch in hope.**

We give thanks and sing praises to God as we go out into the world.

**We wonder in love as we share the Good News with others.**

And May the....**Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 420 Go to the World, Vs.2

Sine Nomine

**Postlude:** Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645

J.S. Bach

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, 2024/2025, Year C.*

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

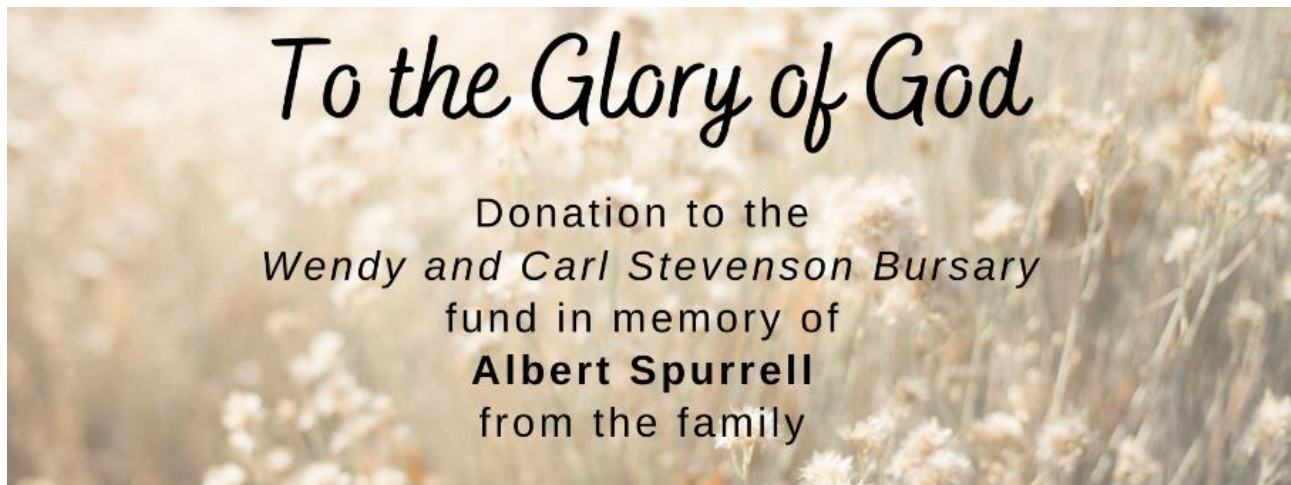
**Youth & Family Minister:** The Rev. Rebecca Pike

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

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

**Custodian:** David Noseworthy

**Board Chair:** Patrick Griffin



Following worship this Sunday, December 1, we will have our traditional Kraft Dinner and hot dog lunch for anyone who wishes to have lunch before heading down to see the Downtown Santa Claus Parade. We hope you can join us. Everyone is welcome!

**Spirit of Giving Sunday is December 8th.** The tree is set up in the vestibule. Please take a star or stars and bring those items to worship on December 8th. The items will be distributed to Stella's Circle this season. Please note that items must be new, placed in reusable shopping bags, or unwrapped.

**Advent Pauses:** Online throughout Advent, the Ministry Team will offer a reflective time inspired by The Weary World Rejoices from The Everything Happens Project with Kate Bowler. These videos will be posted on Gower's YouTube Channel at 10:00 a.m. on Fridays throughout Advent. The first one can be viewed [here](#).

**2025 Church Calendars:** A limited quantity of United Church of Canada Church Calendars is available from the church office for purchase. The cost for a calendar is \$7:00.

**Gifts with Vision:** Give meaningful gifts that make a difference with Gifts with Vision! Each year's gift catalogue gives a glimpse of the breadth of our Mission and Service ministries and programs. Gifts with Vision has gift ideas to suit every interest, budget, and person. It's a great way to celebrate special occasions and honour loved ones! The gift catalogue is updated online regularly and is fully refreshed every fall. You can visit <https://giftswithvision.ca/> to view online catalogue.

**Congregational Christmas Dinner:** The Gower Service and Social Club will be sponsoring a Congregational Christmas Dinner in the downstairs Lecture Hall on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. This menu will include turkey, dressing, gravy and vegetables, followed by plum pudding with hard sauce. Before dinner a brass quintet from the Gower Community Band will play music suitable for the season. After dinner Tony Chadwick will regale us with some of the adventures of Albert, who is capable of getting up to all manner of high jinks, followed by a traditional Christmas carol sing with Carl Goulding at the piano. This is a catered meal and tickets are \$25.00 per person. Anyone interested in attending should contact Douglas Peters, Bruce Nickerson, Karen Butt or Bert Riggs. We can accommodate up to 120 people at this event. The United Church Women will be having a Christmas bake sale at this dinner and there will also be Christmas decorations and tickets on a Ken Butt panorama for sale.

**Christmas Donations:** If you would like to make a donation in memory or honor of a loved one this Christmas, please contact SuAn in the office. These will be reported in our Christmas Eve worship bulletin. Information for memorial donations must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, to be printed in the bulletin.

**Bless this Advent:** Join Rev. Rebecca for a reflective discussion during the season of Advent. Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Rev. Rebecca to receive the Zoom link.

# a festival of *Lessons and Carols*

**Traditional Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols:** Tonight, Sunday evening, December 1st, the 41st Traditional Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols will take place in the sanctuary of Gower Street United Church, at 6:30 pm.

The mass choir features singers from the performance groups at the Music Studios of Etcetera Productions: the Junior Show Choir, the Show Choir, and the Ensemble. The performers' families and the music studio teachers, Carl Goulding, Justin Goulding, Megan Barnes, and Rebecca Goulding Arsenault, look forward to another beautiful musical celebration of the Christmas season.

Admittance is \$20, paid at the door, and doors open for concertgoers at 5:30 pm.

The profits of the evening are donated annually to Gower Street United Church. Everyone is welcome to attend on December 1st, and we hope to make this evening a wonderful beginning to the Christmas Season, and a significant fundraiser for Gower Street United Church.