



**December 29, 2024  
First Sunday After Christmas**

**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 Mrs. Helen Milley on the 1st anniversary of her death from Bert Riggs.**

### THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

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

**Voluntary:** Prelude on Greensleeves

Vaughan Williams

**We sing:** VU 35 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

#### **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.

#### **Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

The Griffin Family

As we pause at the door of a new year and prepare to cross its threshold, let us carry the peace of Jesus' love in our hearts and our lives, so that we may make peace possible in our time.

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

**Let this candlelight shine throughout our daily lives that all may know we follow in Jesus' way. May the light of peace shine through us to all of God's children. May it be so.**

#### **Gathering Words:**

Gather together, People of God, on the threshold of a new year, our amazing Creator has great things in store for us.

**Wondrous surprises await. But we must pause. Be patient. Be hopeful. Be diligent. We know neither the day nor the hour of Jesus' coming. Let us worship our God, who continues to bless us with enduring love.**

#### **Gathering Prayer:**

In our time together at the threshold of a New Year,  
keep alive in us the hope of the angels' song.

**Help us notice the possibility of peace in the child's cries.**

**Push us to live out the love of the babe in the manger.**

At this time of celebrating new beginnings,  
we enter the new year with faith.

At this time of looking ahead, we move into the unknown with hope.

**At this time of new commitment to following in the footsteps of Jesus, we proceed forward together as God's family.**

**Loving God, as we turn the calendar page,  
reveal to us the joy of new beginnings found in you. Amen.**

**We Sing:** VU 68 All Poor Ones and Humble

Olwen

#### **Prayer of Transformation:**

Come with us, Loving God, as we go hopefully into a new year.

**In our fearfulness, reassure us.**

In our apathy, motivate us.

**In our anxiety, calm us.**

Into life's routines, settle us.

**Clothe our dreams with reality.**

Sparkle our friendships with joy.

**Enable us to share our concerns.**

Gift us with the ability to engage with the deep feelings of others.

**Inspire us with a faith that is grounded and practical.**

Be with us in the times of celebration.

**Be with us in the times of struggle.**

Grant us compassion for ourselves and others

**and keep the teachings and spirit of Jesus guiding us. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

God loved us so much that God came to live among us, moved into our seedy old neighbourhood, just to be close to us. God is still here, loving, forgiving, and healing. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### LISTENING TO THE STORY

**Responsive Psalm:** VU p.871 Psalm 148  
Let all creation praise God.

Hymns A & M

**A reading from the Gospel:** Luke 2:41-52  
Jesus is presented in the temple.

**Musical Meditation**

Questions to Ponder:

What were the ups and downs of the past year?

What is positive about this time of year?

What do I wish for in the New Year?

What can I do in my life to make it happen?

**We sing:** VU 64 O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

### 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 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.roges.com](mailto:gsuc@nl.roges.com).*

*You can also scan the QR code on your mobile device to be brought directly to our website page.*



**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, peace, joy and love so that they can experience an abundant future.

**We sing:** VU 514 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

**Offering Prayer:**

We discover Jesus, friend, and sibling, in our neighbours, near and far. **May we reflect your love and grace, O God, and through these gifts of time, talent and money, do for others all that we would do for Jesus. Amen.**

**Prayers for our World**

## Prayer of Jesus

### WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

**We sing:** VU 74 What Child is This

Greensleeves

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

Now may the peace and promises of our God go with you. May the Alpha and Omega—your beginning, your ending, and your eternal home—guide and strengthen you.

**We will go in peace and love in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 58 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (v.2)

W Żłobie Leży

#### **Postlude on *In dulci jubilo***

Bèdard

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

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

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

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

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

**Custodian:** David Noseworthy

**Board Chair:** Patrick Griffin

## To The Glory of God

*Donations to the Operating Fund*

In loving memory of **Florence and Donald Butler** from Donna Butler.

In loving memory of **my parents, Edward & Audrey Green**, from son, David.

In loving memory of **my aunt Edna Green** from nephew, David Green.

In loving memory of **our parents, Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Marjorie Pottle and Mr. Lawrence and Mrs. Donna Smith**. Always remembered and dearly missed by Brad and Karen Smith.

In loving memory of **parents, Clive & Peggy Snelgrove** from Judi, Verne & family.

In loving memory of **Wylie, Whiteway & Barrett Families** from Ian Barrett.

In loving memory of **parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents Marston & Elizabeth Cameron** from Louise & Bob Tipple, Jennifer, Florence, & Louisa Tipple, Stephen, Kaleigh, & Jacob Tipple & Charmine Tipple.

In loving memory of **Uncle Elsie Barbour, parents Wilhelmina and Harry Wright and Dinah and George Green, brother Robert Green** from Marie-Beth and Carl Wright.

In loving memory of **loved ones including parents, Shirley and Anderson Abbott, brother, Glenn Abbott, and aunt, Marion Abbott** from Dana, Gerard, Hayley and Noah Collins.

In Loving Christmas memories of **our Mom & Dad, Harrison & Susie Noseworthy** from daughter Grace and son-in-law Seymour Kell.

In loving memory of **parents Herbert and Gertrude Bailey** from daughter Dianne Bailey.

In loving memory of **Mary Elms**, ever remembered, forever loved from Wince, Greg, Natalie and their families.

In loving memory of **Rudy Laite, Dereck Power, the Laite, Noftall, and Kerrivan families** from Cheryl & Ken Hanlon and family.

In loving memory of **loved ones** from Bruce & Linda Nickerson.

In loving memory of **loved ones** from Doris Burse

In memory of **my father, Rev G. Manuel Saunders, and my mother, Anne B. Saunders**, from daughter Lynn Skinner.

*Donations to the Roof and Restoration Fund*

In loving memory of **my late wife, Dr. Verna M. (Robbins) Skanes** from Graham Skanes.

In loving memory **of my parents, Mark and Alma Badcock, and my precious aunts, Jean Taylor and Emma Wells,**  
from Susan Hibbs (Badcock).

In loving memory of **parents Donald W. K. Dawe, QC & B. Pearl Dawe, and Aunt Marguerite Dawe** from Louise Dawe.

*Donations to the Mission & Service Fund*

In loving memory **of parents, grandparents & great-grandparents William & Mabel Jones, Harold & Annie Noel, brothers & uncles, Lloyd Jones & Selwyn Noel, and sister & Aunt Muriel King** from Darroch & Lois Jones, their children Nicole (Mathieu Larose), Stefan (Sara Slade) & Heather (Shane Rose) and their grandchildren Chloé Larose, Sophie Larose, Lincoln Rose, Anderson Rose, Sebastian Jones, and Dawson Jones.

In loving memory of **parents Stanley & Mary Noftall, brothers Stanley & Bernard, sister Mary Elms & sisters in law Jackie, Esther & Cynthia** from Darren & Brenda Martin & the Noftall family

In loving memory of **parents William & Addie Martin & sister Dana** from Darren & Brenda Martin

In loving memory of **grandparents, Stanley & Mary Noftall & Max & Muriel Vardy** from Russell, Sean & Nicole Vardy

In memory of **Elizabeth and Marston Cameron** a donation to the Mission and Service Fund by Robert and Marilyn Cameron; Laura, Blair, Emma and Lucy Bridger; Scott, Claire and Jon Cameron; Lisa Moore; Matthew, Thea, Georgia, Margot and Alexander Cameron; Andrew, Lana, Grace and Kate Cameron; Jane, Russell, Mckenna, Anya and Callum Noseworthy.

*Donations to the Benevolent Fund*

In loving memory **parents Auburn & Gertie Lethbridge** from Carrie Lethbridge.

*Donations to the Wendy & Carl Stevenson Choral Bursary*

In loving memory of **Shirley and Anderson Abbott, Glenn Abbott and Marion Abbott**. We loved and miss them all from Marilyn and Randy Folkes and family.

*Donations to the Gower Community Band*

In loving memory of our **parents, Marston and Elizabeth Cameron and Dennis and Margaret Murphy, and loved ones** from Blair and Anita Cameron.

In loving memory of **our parents, William and Frannie Trask**, from Carol & Cheryl Trask

*Donations to Organ Fund*

In loving memory of **Lester Goulding** from Elise and family.

