



**March 3, 2024
Lent Three
Sock It to Ya Sunday**

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 bulletin is dedicated in memory of
**Parents Bonnie (Barbour) Vincent & Tom Vincent and Julia (Boland) Gill and Isaac Gill) from
Lloyd & Roberta Gill**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Partita on O Sacred Head variations i, ii, iii, iv, v Pachelbel

We sing: VU 151 Life High the Cross Crucifer

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:

There is so much during the day that clamors for our attention.

Friends, family, work, classes, household tasks.

And the noise!

We are bombarded with sound, from the clock that awakens us to the telephone, the radio, the television, the conversation that we have or overhear.

Where is the time and place to listen for the still, small voice of God?

Sometimes it seems that God would have to speak in a whirlwind to be heard above the clamor!

A Silent Pause

Third Candle of Lent: Douglas Peters

Listen now. There is a place of quiet rest, and it is the place where God dwells within you. Close your eyes. *(Pause)*

Be aware of the place.

In Lent we journey to the parts of ourselves known only to God, beneath the clamor. Let the story of Jesus reach us there.

Let it teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.

(Silent time)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the shadows and pain of violence in the world and to the Earth.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Choral Response: Drop, Drop Slow Tears Gibbons

Let us pray:

Draw us together in your love, O God. **May our restless hearts not resist you, but continue to search until they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Choral Response: Drop, Drop, Slow Tears Gibbons

We sing: MV 83 Let My Spirit Always Sing Spirit Song

Sung Invitation: VU 948 O God, Hear My Prayer Taizé

Prayer Of Transformation:
Are you paying attention, God? **We call on you.**

Sung Response: VU 948 O God, Hear My Prayer Taizé

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Lenten Lamentation

The Book of Lamentations invites us to pay attention to the grief of others, to open our hearts to those who suffer. It also summons us to attend to our own sorrows and to express them freely in prayer. God wants to hear what is real in our lives, including our struggles and disappointments. The book of Lamentations deepens our experience of Lent by encouraging us to grow in the freedom to share all that we are with God.

Choir Response: Bless the Lord my Soul Taizé

A reading from the Gospel: John 2:13-22
Jesus clears the temple.

Sung Response: Bless the Lord my Soul Taizé

Anthem: There is a Green Hill Horsley

Circle Song

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries Judi Somers

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

Circle Time: Sock it to Ya Sunday!

Meditation

We sing: VU 117 Jesus Christ is Waiting

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.

2024 PIE Day Message from Moderator Carmen Lansdowne

Gathering our Gifts

We sing: VU 537 Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands (V. 1) Kilmarnock

Offering Prayer:

Grace-Filled One, we uphold to you our offerings of time, talent, and finance. **May they be agents of grace in a world in need. May they inspire your work throughout the world. Amen.**

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 561 Take Up the Cross

Hesperus

We go out into the world:

From the temple, Jesus calls us to action, to restore God's house, so all of creation will be a place where everyone shares in the blessings of God, free from hunger, want, and injustice!

Let us go forth to bring restoration, hope, and justice.

Lenten Blessing: VU 572 Send Me, Lord

Thuma Mina

Organ Postlude: Partita on *O Sacred Head* Variations vi and vii

Pachelbel

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent 2024, Year B, and Lenten's Lamentation from Worship in the City, Prayers and Songs for the Urban Settings by Nancy Elizabeth Hardy.

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Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Rebecca Pike

Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parady

Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding

Custodian: David Noseworthy

Board Chair: Patrick Griffin



To the Glory of God

Donation to the *Operating Fund*
in loving memory of **Mary Elms**
from Wince, Natalie, Greg and their families.

Donation to the *Wendy and Carl Stevenson Choral
Bursary Fund*
in loving memory of **Alfred Wilson**
from the Gower Senior Choir

Donation to the *Gower Community Band*
in loving memory of **Dr. Edsel Bonnell**
from Gower Service and Social Club, Peter Nell,
Marion Parady, and Robin Braffet Pengelly

In memory of **Mr. Bonnell and his years of
dedication and passion with the Gower Community
Bank and Gower Youth Band** from Laura Bursell

The Affirm Committees of Gower Street and St. James United Churches invite you to our education session on Gender Inclusive Curricula.

March 14TH, 5 PM TO 7 PM at St. James United Church

Over the past year, protests and counter-protests have erupted across Canada in response to new developments around gender inclusive curricula. In September, 2023 the "1 Million March 4 Children", saw people across the country take part in a protest they say aims to protect children from "premature sexualization and potential harmful indoctrination". Counter-protesters, including United Church leaders, challenged the movement stating that it promoted "misinformation, intolerance and hate toward the 2SLGBTQIA+ community". In St. John's No Space for Hate NL, a local pro 2SLGBTQIA+ group organized a counter-protest. Clergy from Gower and St. James joined with clergy from other United Churches and hundreds of other people in the wider St. John's area in support of inclusion, LGBTQ+ rights, and safe school spaces.

We know that there is misinformation, confusion, and concerns from many, both in our church communities and in the broader society about gender inclusive curricula. To address and reflect on some of these questions, the Affirming committees from Gower Street and St. James United are holding a joint education event on **March 14th from 5-7 at St. James United Church**. The objective of the event is to provide a safe and respectful space to address questions and concerns about the issue of gender inclusive curricula. The format of the event will include a panel of presenters with lived and professional experience of gender inclusive spaces, practices, and policies. The panel will be facilitated by **Liz Ohle** – founding member of Out in Faith NL.

Panelists include:

- **Trent Langdon** – Guidance Counsellor and President Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association
- **Laurabel Mba** – Community Activist and NL Human Rights Commission 2022 Award Nominee
- **Hilary Hennessey** – N.L. Human Rights Commission, Disability and Education Advocate
- **Nathalie Brunet** – retired educator

A light meal will be provided. Please RSVP to Gail at gwideman@mun by **Monday March 11th** so that we are able to prepare adequate food and accommodate any dietary limitations.

