



**November 24, 2024
Reign of Christ Sunday
Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**

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.

99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145
E-Mail: office@gowerunited.com Website: <https://gowerunited.com>



Bold indicates unison.
Rise in body and spirit as you prefer.
The projected text in white is a communal response.

**The bulletin today is dedicated in loving memory of
The Rev. Florence Sanna,
from friends: Linda Braine; Marion Davis; Marion Pardy; Jean Smith.**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Mag ich Unglück nicht widerstahn Johann Pachelbel

We sing: VU 244 Sing Your Praise to God Eternal

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.

Light of Faith and Gathering Words:

Gathering Prayer:

We are here, loving God.

We have shown up for worship and community.

May we be alive with spirits strong for service and minds open to be broadened.

We are here, O God, each of us with the grace and gifts you have instilled within us.

Together, we welcome your Spirit as we celebrate your Presence among us and in the world you love.
Amen.

Circle Time: VU 570 Jesus Hands Were Kind Hands

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Lloyd Gill

God of Wisdom, through scripture, may your Word be heard; through meditation and music, may your Word be shown; through our faith-in-action may your Word be lived. Amen.

A reading from Scripture:

Ezekiel 34: 11, 12 14 – 16

Lloyd Gill

Responsive Psalm:

VU p. 868 Psalm 146

Lloyd Gill

Solo:

A reading from the Gospel:

Matthew 25: 31 - 46

Karl Wells

Meditation: Faith: Simple and Complex

Choir: Verse 1 Good King Wenceslas (seated)

We sing: VU 681 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (v. 1-3)

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.

Gathering our Gifts: For Gower and Mission and Service

We sing: VU 541 Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow

Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, bless this church and its many and life-giving ministries. **Bless these gifts entrusted to us in support of your church, granted to our care. Bless the work of Mission and Service and its promotion of compassion, human dignity, advocacy and justice. May we offer our time, talents and money with joy for the benefit of our church and world. Amen.**

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus:

VU 214 Prayer for the Reign of Christ (unison)

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas looked out
on the feast of Stephen,
where the snow lay round about,
deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night,
though the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

'Hither, page, and stand by me,
if thou knowst it telling.
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?'
'Sire, he lives a good league hence,
underneath the mountain,
right against the forest fence
by Saint Agnes' fountain.'

'Bring me flesh, and bring me wine.
Bring me pine logs hither.
Thou and I will see him dine
when we bear them thither.'
Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together,
through the rude wind's wild lament
and the bitter weather.

In his Master's step he trod,
where the snow lay dented.
Heat was in the very sod
which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian folk, be sure,
wealth and rank possessing,

ye who now will bless the poor,
shall yourselves find blessing.

Commissioning and Benediction:

We sing: VU 964 Go Now In Peace

Postlude: Placare,Christe,Servulis Dupré

Worship today was inspired by Pentecost 2 2024, Year B

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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



Explanation of Matthew 25: 31-46

“Eternal Fire”: The ‘eternal fire’ was a physical place – the dreaded Hinnon Valley called Gehenna, outside of Jerusalem. In Jesus’ day it was a garbage dump, outside the city walls, that continually burned. It was considered fit for garbage only since the land had been desecrated by the worship of Moloch (foreign god) in times past. In the first century, in addition to being a garbage dump, Gehenna was a place where bodies of criminals, who did not merit a decent burial, might be dumped – a place where Jesus might have been dumped had someone not intervened. In “Second Coming” theology of the early church, this “eternal fire” of Gehenna was used to symbolize death, and a place for those without hope of redemption in relation to life after death.

What’s Up at Gower



Following worship this morning, Sunday, November 24, 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.

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



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
3:00 PM

CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF
BRIDGES TO HOPE FOOD BANK
Gower Street United Church



SPECIAL GUESTS: "FRIENDS IN SONG"
EMCEE: CHUCK HERRIOTT



Door prizes Everyone welcome! Donations accepted



GOWERS 52ND AUCTION

Bid Now!

Our auction has many wonder pieces of artwork you can bid on!

Framed Newfoundland Panoramas
Bowring Park Winter Picture
Oil Painting By Stewart Montgomerie
Framed Prints by Carl Stevenson, Linda Cross, Mark Hillier and Richard Steele
And more!

https://bartlettauctions.com

The 2024 Gower Online Auction is still open for bidding; you can bid on review items and place your bids at <https://bartlettauctions.com/>. The auction closes on TONIGHT, Sunday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m.

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.

GSSC Favorite Newfoundland Foods Ornament Sales: Looking for a unique Christmas gift? The Gower Service and Social Club are selling ornaments that will remind you of some of your favourite Newfoundland Foods. They are \$5.00 each. You can place orders with Bert Riggs.



a festival of
*Lessons
and
Carols*

Traditional Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols:

On 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.