

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. 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 loving memory of

**Loved Ones**

from Carrie Lethbridge

and

**Trudy Green**

from son and daughter-in-law, Derek & Susan Green

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

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

##### **Prelude:**

- 1.) "Prelude" by Malcolm Arnold, arranged by John P. Paynter
- 2.) "Siciliano" by Malcolm Arnold, arranged by John P. Paynter
- 3.) "Let There Be Peace On Earth" arranged by Ed Huckeby
- 4.) "Panis Angelicus" by Cesar Franck, arranged by Alfred Reed
- 5.) "Symphonic Legacy" by Ralph Ford

**We sing:**      VU 122 All Glory, Laud and Honour      St. Theodulph

##### **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:**

On this Palm Sunday, we remember the words of the prophet:

**Pay attention, your Sovereign is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey.**

We join the crowds who greeted Jesus:

**Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!**

And we respond with praise:

**Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

Let us worship God, waving palm branches and singing together.

##### **Gathering Prayer:**

**Holy Mystery, may we enter Jerusalem and experience the festivities, if only in our imaginations. May we catch a glimpse of the One whom the crowds are shouting at. In fact, may we truly encounter your new message in the interpretation of the timeless tale of Palm Sunday. We ask this in the name of the Redeeming Christ. Amen.**

##### **Sixth Candle of Lent:**

Christina Wells

On this sixth Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, we light a candle to bring us together in a spirit of unity. We rest in the glow of that candle now.

*(a moment of silence)*

As we ponder how fractured and divided, we can be as a people, it can be hard to trust that we will ever be brought together in a real and lasting way. We grieve how unforgiving we can be to each other and how much harm and hurt we can cause to one another by allowing our differences to keep us apart.

As we move with Jesus into Jerusalem this Palm Sunday, we extinguish our candle of unity, just for today, as we seek to learn new ways of respecting our differences and respecting each other so that we can be together as one.

**Choral Response:** Drop, Drop Slow Tears

Gibbons

**Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Judi Somers



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

**Exploring Lent**

**We sing:** VU 123 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Ellacombe

### **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**Responsive Psalm:** VU p.837 Psalm 118 (Parts One, Three, Four)  
The stone that the builders rejected.

Reader: Christina Wells

**A reading from the Gospel:** Luke 19:28-40  
Jesus enters Jerusalem to cheering crowds.

**Response:** VU 118 Wonder and Stare

Iona Community

**Bell Choir:** Ride On, King Jesus  
Lord of the Dance

**Meditation**

**We sing:** VU 357 Tell Me the Stories of Jesus      Stories of Jesus

### **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.rogers.com](mailto:gsuc@nl.rogers.com). You can also scan the QR code on your mobile device to be brought directly to our website page.*

**Minute for Mission:** Supporting a Rights-Based Approach to Growing Food

**Gathering our Gifts:**

The scriptures speak of sacrificial giving, and to that kind of giving we are called. In these Lenten days, let us offer not only our monetary gifts but also ourselves, into the hands of Jesus who gave himself for us.

**We sing:** VU 541 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow Old 100th

**Offering Prayer:**

**Loving God, the world we have fashioned within your good Creation is incomplete and flawed—yet ripe for renewal. In Jesus, you show us the path that mends what is broken. Bless these gifts we offer in Jesus' name, we pray, using them to transform woundedness into healing. Amen.**

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

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 127 Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! Winchester New

**We go out into the world:**

We have begun our journey with Jesus toward the cross. The cross will confront you with power used selfishly.

**We will carefully question the power we have and the powerful ones whom we encounter.**

The cross will remind you of loyalty overcome by fear.

**We will carefully question those who affirm their loyalty and those who will not get involved.**

The cross will challenge you to acknowledge rampant injustice.

**We open ourselves to understanding those who are exploited and vulnerable.**

In hope and in faith, let us journey with Jesus toward the cross.

**We sing:** Soli Deo Gloria

**Postlude:**

1.) "Great Gate of Kiev" by Modest Mussorgsky, arranged by Les Taylor

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent/Easter 2025, Year C.*

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

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

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

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

**Gower Community Band Director:** Ron Collins

**Gower Bell Choir Director:** Dana Collins

**Custodian:** David Noseworthy

**Board Chair:** Patrick Griffin

## **WHAT'S UP AT GOWER**

**Holy Week Worship:** You are invited to join members of the United Church from across the Northeast Avalon for our Holy Week Worship.

- Wesley United Church will host Holy Monday (April 14) and Holy Tuesday (April 15) worships at 7:30 p.m.
- Cowan Heights United Church will host Holy Wednesday (April 16) and Maundy Thursday (April 17) worship at 7:30 p.m. The preacher on Maundy Thursday will be Rev. Miriam Bowlby.
- Gower Street United Church will host a Good Friday Worship at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18. Following the worship service at 2:00 p.m., Gower will also host a Good Friday Prayer Walk. Following the walk, there will be coffee and community time at Gower.
- St. James United Church will host an Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19. The preacher will be Rev. Kathy Brett.

### **All are welcome to our Easter Sunday Celebrations!**

8:45 a.m. Contemplative Worship with soft music, the Sacrament of Holy Communion and prayer.

10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Coffee hosted by the Worship and Sacraments Committee in the Lecture Hall.

11:00 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship

The worship link for the live stream of our Easter Celebration will be available following the conclusion of the Contemplative Worship.

### **Weekly Activities at Gower:**

Tuesday, April 15: Pastoral Care Worship at Cambridge Estates at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 16: Pastoral Care Worship at Lane's Retirement Residence at 2:15 p.m., Gower Handbell Choir at 6:30 p.m., Gower Community Band at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 17: Pause for Prayer at 4:30 p.m. (Online)

Friday, April 18: Pysanky Worship with Hanna Furs at 9:00 a.m., Good Friday Worship at 1:00 p.m., Good Friday Prayer Walk at 2:00 p.m.

**GSSC Dinner Meeting:** The April Dinner Meeting for the Gower Service and Social Club will take place on Tuesday, April 22, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Lecture Hall, 208 Gower Street. The main course will be fish and brewis, with all the trimmings and the meal will include an appetizer, dessert, tea and coffee. The after-dinner speaker is still to be confirmed. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Bert Riggs before the end of the day on Easter Sunday.

**Easter Donations:** If you would like to make a donation in memory or honor of a loved one this Easter, please contact SuAn in the office. These will be reported in our Easter Sunday worship bulletins. Information for memorial donations must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, to be printed in the bulletin.

**Bulletin Dedications:** The Worship and Sacraments Committee invites members of our faith community to help with the cost of printing weekly bulletins. It costs us approximately \$15.00 to have color-printed bulletin covers. You may dedicate a bulletin of any Sunday in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a significant event, or in celebration of a life's milestone. The name of Memoriam/Celebration/Milestone and Donor will appear in the bulletin on the specified Sunday. Please forward any donations to the church office and contact SuAn, the office administrator,

during office hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. via email (gsuc@nl.rogers.com) or phone 709-753-7286 ext. 200.

## **OUR COMMUNITY**

**St. James United Church Tapestry:** This informal service, held on the second Sunday of each month, celebrates the strands that make us who we are in terms of faith, experience, and identity. Based on a theme, the service makes use of popular music as its “hymnbook”. Participants explore the theme through facilitated conversation rather than a sermon and time is given for individual reflection at a series of “prayer stations”. There is also now a potluck prior to the service. Potluck at 5:30 p.m. and service at 7:00 p.m.

**Topsail United Church will be holding Breakfast with the Easter Bunny** on Saturday April 12, from 8 until 11 a.m., Usual Great Menu. Adults \$10.00, Children under 12 -\$5.00, Pictures with the Easter Bunny, Face Painting and Coloring. All are Welcome.

**Tyler Young Country Gospel Show:** Featuring Junior Reid – Mark your calendars for an evening of wonderful music at Cowan Heights United on Saturday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. Featuring Tyler Young and Junior Reid. Tickets are \$25.00 and are available for purchase from the church office by emailing office@cowanheightsunited.ca or calling 709 - 745-2871.

**NSO Recital 3: “The Seven Last Words of Christ”:** Join the Atlantic String Quartet of the NSO for a profound and moving evening of music with Recital 3 at the Anglican Cathedral of St John the Baptist. On Good Friday, April 18, 2025 at 8 p.m., experience the spiritual and emotional depth of Joseph Haydn’s masterpiece, “The Seven Last Words of Christ” together with a special companion oration delivered by local actor George Robertson. This extraordinary work, originally composed for the Good Friday service, consists of seven meditative sonatas, each reflecting on the final words spoken by Christ on the cross. Haydn’s music is both powerful and contemplative, offering a journey through sorrow, reflection, and ultimately, hope. The Anglican Cathedral provides a stunning and acoustically rich setting, enhancing the intimate and reverent atmosphere of this performance. Don’t miss this special opportunity to experience one of Haydn’s most profound works. Secure your tickets now for Recital 3 at the Anglican Cathedral. Tickets are available at the ACC Box Office (709-729-3900), online at [www.artsandculturecentre.com](http://www.artsandculturecentre.com) and at the door.

**Cowan Heights United Spring Fair:** Join us for our Annual Spring Fair on Saturday, April 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$2.00 at the door. Local vendors will sell baked goods, knitted goods, jewelry, paintings, sealskin products, handcrafted wood items, and much more. You can also enjoy a delicious bowl of soup, with a roll and a cup of tea/coffee for \$8.00. We hope to see you there! We are also looking for a couple more vendors to sell their wares at our craft fair! If you are interested in having a table at the fair, please contact Madonna at [madonnahowell@hotmail.com](mailto:madonnahowell@hotmail.com).

**Wesley Flipper Dinner:** The Wesley Fall Fair Committee will be holding the first of two Flipper Dinners on Thursday, May 8, starting at 5:00 p.m. for takeouts and 6:00 p.m. for eat-in. Tickets are \$30.00 and should be paid for and picked up by Friday, May 2. Tickets will not be sold at the door but can be picked up at the Church on Friday, May 2nd, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. To order tickets, call the church office at 709-579-3682.



*8:45 a.m. Contemplative Worship with soft music, the  
Sacrament of Holy Communion and prayer  
10:00 a.m. - Easter Sunday Coffee hosted by the Worship and  
Sacraments Committee in the Lecture Hall.  
11:00 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship*



Join us in person or online on  
Sunday April 20, 2025

