

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.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Partita on *O Sacred Head, sore wounded* Pachelbel
 Chorale, Variations 1,2 3,4 & 5

We sing: VU 151 Lift 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:

We come from the wilderness of life to gather for worship.

We bring with us experiences of God's beautiful and raw creation.

We come to understand the challenge and peace of wild places.

We bring a deep respect for our natural world.

We come to strengthen our connection with the Spirit that flows throughout this incredible world.

Gathering Prayer:

Good Shepherd, once again, you have gathered us in. Now we ask that through our worship, we become more grounded in you. We come seeking love in your word and song. We come from the wilderness seeking restoration. Lift up our hearts and let us worship you in fullness of spirit. Amen.

Fifth Candle of Lent: Douglas Peters

On this fifth Sunday of Lent, we pray for wholeness and health for all living things. We rest in the glow of these candles now.

(a moment of silence)

As we consider the value of health, we acknowledge our concerns about the various illnesses that can significantly impact our world.

We grieve sicknesses that affect the body, the mind, and the spirit of those whom they afflict. We grieve the present state of our natural environment and how its overall decline has changed how we live and how we might live.

As the shadows of Lent move ever closer, we extinguish the candle for health, just for today,

as we commit ourselves to healing what is sick and mending what is broken, so that we can all find wholeness.

Choral Response: Drop, Drop Slow Tears Gibbons

Exploring Lent

We sing: VU 148 Jesus, Remember Me Remember Me
(Sung Twice)

Prayer Of Transformation:

Loving God, we come to you with conflicted hearts, caught between the abundance you have provided for us and the culture of scarcity in which we live. We know from the scriptures that we have abundant life through you. Yet we are told the opposite in today's world: that we are playing a zero-sum game, that the criteria for success is having a high-paying job, and that we deserve wealth and good things only when we ourselves worked hard for it, no matter the circumstances or challenges or prejudices we endure. We succumb to this way of thinking. It permeates our culture and clouds our world view. As we raise our inner quarrel to you, we ask for your forgiveness and grace.

Words of Assurance:

Despite the culture around us, God declares to us and we know deep inside that there is another way, that there is the Jesus Way, where there is more than enough for all, where people are judged by their character and not their job description or title or appearance, where we are called to help and serve one another, rather than only focusing on our own accumulation of wealth. This is the way toward the kin-dom of God. **Let us make this journey together. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination:

Douglas Peters

Gentle God, your spirit touches the deepest places in our being. May the words we receive today and the images they inspire provoke us to fall deeply in love with you. Let new insights rest gently within us, that we might be transformed. Open to us your healing, life-giving truth. This we pray, in the name of the Liberating Christ. Amen.

A reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 43: 16-21

Look, I am doing something new.

A reading from the Gospel: John 12: 1-8

Mary anoints Jesus with costly ointment

Response: VU 118 Wonder and Stare

Iona Community

Anthem: Ave Verum Corpus

Mozart

Meditation

We sing: VU 506 Take My Life and Let It Be

Mozart

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



Minute for Mission: The Next Century: Youth Leading the Way

Gathering our Gifts

We sing: VU 542 We Give You But Your Own

Franconia

Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, it is hoped that these gifts will spread widely, like the smell of Mary's fragrant oil, blessing and anointing where they are needed. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 333 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Hyfrodol

We go out into the world:

Go now in peace. Go in love.

We go transformed and nourished by the covenant of old that calls us to live in right relations and with kindness and humility.

Go from here aware of your wounds, letting Holy Love bind them up.

We go from here in strength, with the power to be tender.

Go from here united, in Christ and in love. **Amen.**

We sing: Soli Deo Gloria

Postlude: Partita on O Sacred Head, sore wounded Pachelbel
Variations 6 and 7

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

Custodian: David Noseworthy

Board Chair: Patrick Griffin

WHAT'S UP AT GOWER

Gower Street United Church Dessert Auction & Concert: GET YOUR TICKETS NOW for our 4th Annual Dessert Auction and Concert on Saturday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30). The event will take place in the Lecture Hall, where there will be entertainment and dessert for all in attendance. Entertainment will be provided by the very talented Peter Halley and Shelly Neville. There are only 120 tickets available. Gather a group or come alone for a fun evening of great entertainment and delicious desserts. Tickets are \$30 each and are available for purchase at the church office. Payment is due via e-transfer, cheque, or cash before the event.

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

Cowan Heights United Church will host a Maundy Thursday worship at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17. The preacher 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, Gower will also host a Good Friday Prayer Walk, starting at 2:00 p.m. Following the walk, there will be coffee time in the Gower Lecture Hall.

St. James United Church will host an Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19. The preacher will be Rev. Rob Cooke.

All are welcome to our Easter Sunday Celebrations!

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

9:45 a.m. Easter Sunday Coffee hosted by the Worship and Sacraments Committee in the Lecture Hall.

11:00 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship with Baptism.

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

Lenten Pauses: Throughout Lent, the Ministry Team will offer a weekly online time of scripture, reflection, music, and prayer. These pauses are inspired by *The Hardest Part*, a Group guide from *The Everything Happens Project* and Kate Bowler. These videos will be posted on Gower’s YouTube Channel at 10:00 a.m. on Fridays throughout Lent.

Bless this Lent: Join Rev. Rebecca to explore using *The Hardest Part* during this season of Lent. Kate Bowler and her team at *Everything Happens Project* offer this study. Together, we will embrace Lent as it is—raw, honest, and tender. This is the season that asks us to stop pretending we’re holding it all together. It’s a time to pause, sit with what’s fragile and unfinished, and let God meet us in the hardest parts of our lives. Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Rev. Rebecca for the Zoom link.

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 Memorial/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.

100th Anniversary of the Right of Women to vote and hold public office: Thursday, April 3, we on the Island of Newfoundland celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Right of Women to Vote and to Hold Public Office (Labrador, 1946), led by Armine Nutting Gosling (Anglican Cathedral), Fannie McNeil and others. Emma Peters (Gower) was a strong, supportive leader. They were bold, courageous women, involved in a long-fought battle. Let us respect our ‘right’ to vote and vote in the present Elections - Vote care-fully and wisely - Vote for candidates who hold values core to our country, our faith, and our humanity, including ALL people. (Submitted by Marion Parady)

COMING UP AT GOWER

Sunday Worship:

April 6: Lent Five

April 13: Palm Sunday worship with Gower Community Band. Worship will begin with GCB musical prelude at 10:30 a.m.

April 20: Easter Communion Worship at 8:45 a.m., Easter Celebration Worship with Baptism at 11:00 a.m.

Weekly Activities:

Tuesday, April 8: Gower Youth at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9: Pastoral Care Worship at Bishop Gardens at 3:30 p.m., Gower Handbell Choir at 6:30 p.m., Gower Community Band at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 10: Pause for Prayer at 4:30 p.m. (Online), Bless This Lent at 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)

OUR COMMUNITY

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, Children under 12 -\$5, Pictures with the Easter Bunny, Face Painting and Coloring. All are Welcome.

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment Band presents: Voyages: A Musical Journey on Friday, 11 April at 7:30 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church (formerly Mary Queen of the World Parish), 775 Topsail Road Mount Pearl, Admission is free, we will be collecting food and cash donations for local food banks.

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 Cowan office by emailing office@cowanheightsunited.ca or calling (709) 745-2871.



GOWER'S 4TH ANNUAL DESSERT AUCTION & CONCERT

**Entertainment will be provided by the very
talented Peter Halley and Shelly Neville.**

April 12th at 7:00 p.m. (Doors Open 6:30 p.m.)

Tickets: \$30.00

Gower Street United Church - Lecture Hall

Get your tickets now!

Contact our office: Wednesdays and Thursday

11:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

phone: (709) 753-7286

The only accepted payment options for tickets are
cash, cheque or e-transfer.