

## December 28, 2025 First Sunday After Christmas

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. This province of Newfoundland and Labrador is home to diverse populations of Indigenous and other peoples who have contributed to 9,000 years of history. We acknowledge with respect the deep histories and cultures of the Mi'kmaq, Innu, and Inuit. 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 seekers of justice, 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

**THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

**The Life and Work of Gower**

**Voluntary:**

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

**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 Prayer:**

Praise the Living God! Praise God from the heavens:

**Sun and moon and shining stars, praise the Living God!**

Praise God's Holy Name,

**whose word speaks all things into being, who is present in the expanse of the universe, and in the voices of children.**

Praise the Living God, our rescuer and deliverer,

**whose wonder is found in the heavens and in all creation, who comes in innocence, and with mercy.**

O God, our light, our beauty, our rest: with the appearance of your Son you have brought us into your new creation.

**Form us into your people, and root our lives in you; through Christ, the Living Light.**

**Musical Meditation on "O Holy Night"**

**LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**A Reading from Scripture:** Isaiah 35:1–10

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

**Story**

**Reading from Scripture:** Isaiah 11: 1-9

**Musical Reflection on Good King Wenceslas**

**Story**

**Reading from Scripture:** Isaiah 9: 2-7

**We sing:** VU 44 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

**Story**

**Reading from Scripture:** Isaiah 63: 7-9

**We sing:** VU 67 Silent Night, Holy Night Stille Nacht

**Story**

## **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 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.



### **Gathering our Gifts:**

In the gifts of word and song, we hear the story of your gift of life, O God. Here, we offer what we can of ourselves, we who are part of that same story.

**We sing:** VU 75 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks, v.6

### **Offering Prayer:**

Receive these gifts, God of All, for the work of your kin-dom. **May our words become witness, and our witness become work, for your people, in your world. Amen.**

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

**Our Parent in Heaven, whose love knows no bounds,**

**Your name is Holy, held in the highest regard.**

**May Your realm of love, acceptance, and justice come,**

**May Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,**

**Guiding us to honour each other's dignity and worth.**

**Give us today our daily bread, the sustenance we need,**

**And forgive us our prejudices as we forgive those who are prejudiced against us, lead us away from judgment and deliver us from the hands of hatred. For Yours is the realm of unconditional love, the power to change hearts, And the glory of diversity in unity, now and forever. May all of us, created beautifully and wonderfully in Your image, Live and love in the spirit of Your Son, who taught us to pray, embracing each other, as You embrace us all. Amen.**

## **WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 38 Angels We Have Heard on High Gloria

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

Let us go and magnify the Lord with our joy in the true blessings of Christmas. **Through the birth of Jesus and the teachings he**

**gave for faithful living, we have an eternal lifelong friend in whom we can trust, a friend who goes with us from this place, a friend who is God-with-Us.**

**Postlude:** Greensleeves

arr. Vaughn Williams

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2025/26, Year A.*

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

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

**Interim Youth & Family Minister:** The Rev. Karen Thorne

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

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

**Custodian:** David Noseworthy

**Board Chair:** Jonathan Stevenson