

**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.*

**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

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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** in A Minor

Anonymous

**We sing:** We All Gather Here

Gower United

**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.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

We light the Christ candle on this Sunday of Epiphany, recognizing how far Christ's light shines: outwards to help those around him, inwards to heal those he seeks. The healing light of Christ dwells also in each one of us.

**Christ within us—we too are the light of Christ. Amen.**

**Gathering Words:**

On TV, in social media, and on the streets, loud, angry voices clamour, insisting on being heard and obeyed.

**Sometimes, it seems that rage is the only language we human beings know how to express.**

Today, we will experience another kind of language: words of reconciliation and mercy, words of unconditional love.

**Surely, these are the words of God.**

Let us all now invite God to speak, for we are listening.

**“Speak, God, for your people are listening.”**

**Gathering Prayer:**

Ever-wondrous God, you call us to the way of new life.

**We come as we are - with anxieties, uncertainties, and doubt.**

We also bring our desire for new life.

**Embrace us with healing love and restore us to wholeness, we pray. Forgive us when we doubt your power and presence in our lives.**

Help us to accept your invitation to renewed life.

**All praise and glory, are yours. Amen.**

**Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Judi Somers

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

**Exploring Epiphany:**

*The Circle Song*

*All ages are invited to come forward as we sing*

**We sing:** VU 675 Will Your Anchor Hold

Will Your Anchor Hold

## LISTENING TO THE STORY

### **Prayer of Illumination:**

Meghan McKibbon

Holy One, God of anger and love, as we receive the stories of scripture today, remind us that you are with us on our journeys, both expected and unexpected, so that we may share your presence with all that we encounter, and the world may be changed by love. **Amen.**

### **A reading from Scripture:** Jeremiah 1:4-10

Meghan McKibbon

Before you were formed in the womb, I set you apart.

### **A reading from the Gospel:** Luke 4:21-30

Jesus is driven out of Nazareth.

### **Anthem:** O Come, Ye Servants of the Lord

Tye

### **Meditation**

### **We sing:** VU 375 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit of Gentleness

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



### **Gathering our Gifts**

### **We sing:** VU 540 Grant Us, God the Grace

Stuggart

### **Offering Prayer:**

Out of apathy into action,  
**our gifts bring change.**

Out of judgment into acceptance,  
**our gifts bring joy.**

Out of ignorance into understanding,  
**our gifts bring revelation.**

Out of aloneness into community,  
**our gifts bring friendship.**

Out of our own backyard into the global village,  
**our gifts bring a worldwide perspective.**

Out of the spiritual into the practical,  
**our gifts cannot be kept from breaking out into the world.**

**Loving God, bless these gifts. Amen.**

### **Prayers for our World and Prayer of Jesus**

## WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

### **We sing:** VU 586 We Shall Go Out with Hope and resurrection

Londonderry Air

**We go out into the world:**

We know that we are not yet where we need to be.

**We are far away from the gentle, healed world of Jesus' words.**

We go now to continue the journey, to travel toward the dawn that will surely come.

**It is the living Christ who journeys with us. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 966 Amen

Dresden

**Postlude:** The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (*from Solomon*)

Handel

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, 2024/2025, Year C.*

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