

January 26, 2025 Third Sunday After Epiphany

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.

Today's bulleting is dedicated in celebration of Madeline and Paige Spurrell's 16th birthday from Lima Spurrell.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Largo from *Xerxes*

Handel

We sing: VU 421 Lead on, O cloud of Presence

Lancashire

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 each week, as a reminder that the presence of Jesus guides our lives.

We celebrate this light of Jesus as the love that transforms how we live our lives and challenges us to seek justice and peace for all. Amen.

Gathering Words:

It is good to gather with friends

who know and accept us as people of faith.

It is good to gather with friends

who seek the meaning and purpose of life.

It is good to gather with friends

who wish to make a difference in our world.

Friends, let us worship!

Gathering Prayer:

In the flurry and fluster of these winter days, Holy One, we pause to gather ourselves around your word of life.

Pay attention to us, O God. Do you notice our hearts longing for good news?

Do you notice the emptiness and our desire to be filled and fed?

In these days of Epiphany surprises, enlighten us with your stories. Open our lives to the miracles around us. Turn our hearts to you until we rejoice in the good news of your life in us. Amen.

Exploring Epiphany: The Circle Song

All ages are invited to come forward as we sing

We sing: VU 628 Come, My Way, My Truth

The Call

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination:

Edward Moores

Answering God, we have a lot of questions: about life and about you.

We are often afraid to share them, fearful that others believe we should know the answers. Faith requires both an openness to question and a willingness to accept mystery, a challenging combination. Make us confident in our asking of questions and willing to accept there can be both certainty and mystery. **Amen.**

A reading from Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Now you are the body of Christ and each one a part of it.

Edward Moores

A reading from the Gospel: Luke 4:14-21
Jesus reads from Isaiah, "The Spirit of God is upon me."

Anthem: It Is Well with My Soul

Wilberg

Meditation

We sing: MV 79 Spirit, Open My Heart

Wild Mountain Thyme

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



Mission and Service Stories: Did You Miss It?

Gathering our Gifts

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

Stuttgart

Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, there are many reasons for us to stay where we are—some more compelling than others. But our money can always travel and go where you need it. May these gifts reflect our commitment to follow Jesus. Amen.

Prayers for our World and Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 288 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

We go out into the world:

We have all been called.

Not just a select few! Not just the professionally religious!

The call is for all Christians.

So, as we go from this time of worship, let us pay attention, let us seek God's guidance, and then let us live our lives in response to God's call. Amen.

We sing: VU 966 Amen

Dresden

Postlude: Psalm XIX

Marcello

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

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To the Glory of God

Donations to the
Operating Fund
in loving memory of

Verne Somers

from Artistic Fraud, Marilyn & Doug Peters, Helen Browering,
Linda Giannou and Albert Noftall