

January 5, 2025
Epiphany Sunday

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
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 loving memory Rudy Laite from Cheryl & Ken Halon and Family.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: *Puer nobis nascitur*

Nicolas le Bègue

We sing: VU 91 The First Nowell (v. 1,2,3)

The First Nowell

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:

Tiny Christ, alive in our hearts, alive in the world!

May Jesus' birth continue to be the birth that turns our lives upside down, that calls us to hope, that baptizes us with love.

Holy Child of Bethlehem, let this light be hope for the world.

Let this be our prayer. Amen. (*candle is lit*)

Gathering Words:

Together, we follow our hearts and our dreams to this moment.

We listen and learn, love and pray.

Together, we follow our hearts and our dreams to this moment.

With the long days of travel, the gifts of strangers, the horror of power, the celebration of life.

Together, we follow our hearts and our dreams to this moment.

We listen and learn, love and pray.

Joining with the magi, together, we worship the babe, our hope.

Gathering Prayer:

Epiphany God, you are the one who shatters the despair and hopelessness. You place a star in the sky as a guide, and you lead us to find new life in unknown places.

We gather in worship this day to give thanks for the light your presence offers, the confidence your love gives, and the sanctuary your peace places before us.

Bathe us in your light this day and help us feel the warmth of your love in this community of hope. Amen.

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries

Judi Somers

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

All ages are invited to come forward as we sing

Exploring Epiphany: VU 56 Jesus Our Brother (V. 1 & 6) Orientis Partibus

We sing: VU 81 As with Gladness Men of Old Dix

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination:

Holy One, Light of Sun and Stars, God of New Stories and New Directions, 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.

We pray in the name of the holy human child, the one we know as Jesus. Amen.

A reading from Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-6 Elliot Peters
Arise, shine, for your light has come.

A reading from the Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12
The visit of the Magi.

Meditation

Musical Reflection

We sing: VU 82 A Light Is Gleaming Living in the Light

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.



Gathering our Gifts:

Like the wise ones so long ago, we bring gifts from our hearts to honour the Christ child. Let us share these gifts we give through PAR, e-transfer, cheques, and Canada Helps, Plenty. Let us share our gifts to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. Our offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary.

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

Offering Prayer:

Holy One, we give our gifts and talents, just as the wise ones brought you frankincense, myrrh, and gold, when you were on your mother's knee. We bring you our earthy treasures to help illuminate your presence on this earth. Amen.

Prayers for our World and Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 96 Will You Come and See the Light.

Kelvingrove

We go out into the world:

Our Creator God has been with us throughout this gathering as symbolized by the light of this candle. As we extinguish the candle, the light goes with us. *(Candle is extinguished)*

It goes with us as an energizing Spirit—

the Spirit that fills us individually and collectively with ambition to lead our lives in harmony with our planet.

It goes with us as Jesus, the teacher—

the teacher, called Light for the World, who reminds us how to live in peace and harmony with all.

It goes with us as the Creator God—

who develops in us the willingness to work toward harmony in all Creation.

We go into the world carrying the light of Jesus.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

We sing: VU 91 The First Noel (vs.4, 5)

The First Noel

Organ Postlude: *Impression on We Three Kings*

Fedak

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

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