



June 29, 2025
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Remembering Beaumont Hamel
Celebrating Canada Day

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.

99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145
E-Mail: office@gowerunited.com Website: <https://gowerunited.com>



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

We sing: VU 524 O Canada

We sing: VU 806 O God Our Help in Ages Past St. Anne

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:

As Canada begins another year, we come with praise and thanksgiving
for the beauty and bounty of this land* and the diversity of its people.

We come too with concern, and a desire for hope

that the environment will be protected, that truth and reconciliation will be advanced, and that all people will live in harmony.

Gathering Prayer:

O Wondrous Creator, we come before you this day to delight in the marvels of your creation in this country we call Canada.

We come, open and attentive, to marvel at the dazzling sunsets and majestic mountains.

We come with open spirits to feel the melodies of the birds and the roaring of turbulent seas.

We come with open senses to luxuriate in the fragrance of spring flowers.

We pause and rejoice at your creative labours and treasure our Sabbath rest:

(Silent Pause)

We come, knowing that not everyone in this country has access or opportunity to delight in the gifts of your creation, knowing that your creation in many places is suffering.

And so, as we worship and savor the wonders, we also commit to caring for creation, seeking access and opportunity for all. Amen.

We sing: VU 382 Breathe on me, breath of God Trentham

Last Post Janet Howells

The following members of the Gower Street Methodist Church lost their lives on July 01, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. All but Captain Bernard P. Ayre, who was a member of the Norfolk Regiment, were members of the Newfoundland Regiment who were killed in the fighting at Beaumont Hamel.

Captain Eric S. Ayre *Captain Bernard P. Ayre*

2nd Lieutenant Gerald W. Ayre *Private Harry Butler*

Lieutenant Hubert Clinton Herder *Private William E. LeShana*

Private Robert Meadus *Private William G. Perran*

Private Alfred P. Taylor

Moment of Silence

Rouse

Prayer of Transformation:

As proud as we are of our country, God, we know it could be better.

We know we could be better.

We know that there could be reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of Canada and better relationships among those of all faiths.

We need your compassion in our communities and in our country.

We need your imagination, your vision of a country and a world transformed.

Instead, we have made idols for ourselves of culture, race, status, and material wealth. We have made gods that are no gods.

Forgive us, Spirit of justice and true peace.

Reconcile, restore, redeem us, Merciful One.

Turn us to the unconditional love of Jesus and give us your grace, we pray. **Amen.**

We are forgiven:

God invites us to let go, **to release our fears and our failures, our deepest loves and our greatest joys, into the infinite ocean of God's mercy. Amen.**

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Responsive Psalm: VU. P.791 Psalm 77
I cry to God in my distress.

Honoré
Reader: Patrick Griffin

A reading from the Gospels: Luke 6:20-31

We sing: VU 385 Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers. Gräfenberg

Meditation

Musical Meditation

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



Gathering our Gifts:

Creative and renewing God, we give thanks to you for the blessings we enjoy in this country: the diverse beauty of each province, from lakes to prairies, from mountains to coasts; the resources and opportunities to learn and grow and leave our mark; and the freedom to live and love, being true to ourselves.

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

Offering Prayer:

Bless these offerings as you have blessed our lives. Inspire us to discover beauty in those who hold approaches different from our own, to create opportunities for diversity to surprise and to flourish, and to share the abundance of your love, without limit or restriction. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 421 Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

Lancashire

We go out into the world:

And now, touched by God's Spirit, **which makes us free,**
held in God's love, **which gives us strength,**
befriended by God's son, Jesus, **who breaks down walls,**
let us live with hearts wide open to all the adventure,
all the pain, all the joy, of being God's people,
in every place life calls us to be. Amen.

God Save The King

God save our gracious King
Long live our noble King,
God save The King:
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save The King.

Ode to Newfoundland

When sunrays crown thy pine-clad hills
And Summer spreads her hand
When silvern voices tune thy rills
We love thee smiling land
We love thee, we love thee,
We love thee smiling land.

As loved our fathers, so we love
Where once they stood we stand
Their prayer we raise to heav'n above
God guard thee Newfoundland
God guard thee, God guard thee
God guard thee Newfoundland.

Postlude

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2025, Year C.

All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-742130 or CCLI Copyright License: 3157095 & Streaming License: 21279189. No portion of services may be recorded or distributed without explicit permission from Gower Street United Church.

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

New Office Hours: Effective June 30, 2025, the Gower office hours will be Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please note the office will be closed on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, for Canada Day.

Gower On the Move: Will resume on Thursday, July 10 at 6:00 p.m. (weather permitting) when Rev. Rebecca returns from vacation.

Pause for Prayer: There will be no new Pause for Prayer on July 3; they will resume on July 10 when Rev. Rebecca returns from vacation.

Pride Worship: On Sunday, July 20, join us in celebration and solidarity for a joint Pride-Focused Worship to celebrate St. John's Pride Festival. Worship will start at 10:00 a.m., followed by a light snack before we head out to walk (if you are able) in the Pride Parade at noon. No worship at Gower at 11:00 a.m. For us to get an idea of the numbers for the snack, we invite you to let us know that you're attending by emailing Rev. Rebecca at rebecca.pike@nl.rogers.com.

Pride Parade: On Sunday, July 20, our congregation, along with other United Church congregations, will participate in the St. John's Pride Parade. There will be a light lunch following worship before heading to the parade. We would love to have you, your family, and your friends join us for this event. Everyone is welcome. For us to get an idea of the number of participants, we invite you to let us know that you're attending by emailing Rev. Rebecca at rebecca.pike@nl.rogers.com

ETCETERA PRODUCTIONS: On Sunday, June 29th, at 8:00 p.m., at the Arts and Culture Centre, Justin and Megan perform on the Main Stage, along with performers from the Music Studios of Etcetera Productions. A live stage band enhances performances of song and dance from a wide variety of musical genres such as traditional folk music, classic rock, country music, musical theatre and beyond. Our Gower Street Church Choir members, Justin and Megan, as well as Amber, Emma, Gabrielle, Jack, Lia, Riley and Ty are featured performers, and we hope to see you there! Information about "ETCETERA 37: Together As One" is available on the Arts and Culture Centre website.

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 Memoriam/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

etcetera 37
together as one
JUNE 29TH
ST. JOHN'S ARTS & CULTURE CENTRE

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY

etcetera PRODUCTIONS SHOW CHOIR
etcetera PRODUCTIONS SHOW CHOIR
etcetera PRODUCTIONS ensemble
etcetera PRODUCTIONS MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS
etcetera PRODUCTIONS POP CLASS
and of course the etcetera band

3POINTS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

709-729-3900
artsandculturecentre.com/stjohns