

March 2, 2025 Transfiguration Sunday

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.

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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 loving memory of
our Dad Stanley Nofall on the 43rd Anniversary of his passing.
Forever in our hearts. From Brenda, Linda, Reg & Albert.**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Vater unser im Himmelreich, BWV 636.

J.S. Bach

We sing: VU 339 When Morning Gilds the Skies

Laudes Domini

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:

This is the day that God has made.

Rejoice! Alleluia!

This is the day the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

For this morning, this day, this life in God's.

This candle; light for the world.

Thankfully it is all God's. Alleluia! Amen!

Gathering Words:

Have you been to the mountaintop?

Have you experienced the promised land?

Here in the valley of deep shadow, the mountain seems impossibly high and far away, the promise fades into the cloudy distance.

Have you been to the mountaintop?

Have you seen the promised land?

**We want to go, we want to experience,
yet who will show us the way?**

Listen to the old stories. Listen to your own stories.

Notice the Spirit calling. Learn to attend with your heart.

We will go to the mountaintop.

We will seek the promised land.

Gathering Prayer:

Holy God, we come to this place,

not because you are to be found nowhere else, but because here, we have no other task than to be in your presence.

Here, we tune our senses to listen,

our spirits to discover, our hearts to feel, and our minds to wonder.

May the glory that you are touch this hour of our time,

so that it may be for us a transforming moment bringing new light, new hope, new courage, and new commitment to follow in the way of Jesus, in whose blessed name we pray. Amen.

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries

Judi Somers

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

Exploring Transfiguration: The Circle Song
All ages are invited to come forward as we sing

We sing: MV 44 Shadow and Substance

Twilight

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination:

Listen! Listen God is calling!

Listen! Listen God is calling!

God is calling, through the Word inviting!

Listen, listen God is calling!

Listen! Listen God is calling and inviting!

Wisdom, hope and truth lies within.

Listen! Listen God is calling!

Listen! Listen God is calling!

Douglas Peters

A reading from the Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35

Moses is radiant as he comes down the mountain.

A reading from the Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Jesus is transfigured upon the mountain.

Anthem: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

Meditation

We sing: VU 409 Morning has broken

Bunessan

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



Minute for Engagement

Anthony Chadwick

Gathering our Gifts:

God of the transfiguration, we bring our gifts to you, ordinary gifts that you use to build our church in this time in our world. We bring them in many varied and different ways to support our faith community here at Gower, our surrounding community and our world through the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

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

Stuttgart

Offering Prayer:

Gold glitters and silver shines, but any gifts offered in Jesus' name are radiant with your love, O God. May it be so this day. Amen.

Prayers for our World and Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 104 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding Abbot's Leigh

We go out into the world:

We have been gathered within Holy Presence, bathed in the light of God's love.

Now we go into the shadowed places where fears and doubts still threaten.

May the words we have received, the songs we have sung, and the prayers we have offered not be left behind but be carried with us.

May we be transformed and be agents of God's transformation in the world. Amen.

We sing: VU 966 Amen Dresden

Postlude: Rondeau in D Mouret

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

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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

Pancake Supper: Tickets are on sale now for our Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

Sunday, March 2nd, will be your last chance to buy tickets for the dinner. Join us for pancakes, sausages, and fruit. Payment of cash, cheque, or transfer is required to get tickets

Lenten Pauses: Throughout Lent, the Ministry Team will offer a time of scripture, reflection, music, and prayer online weekly. These pauses are inspired by The Hardest Part, a Group guide from The

Everything Happens Project and Kate Bowler. These videos will be posted on Gower's YouTube Channel at 10:00 a.m. on Fridays throughout Lent. The first video will be posted on March 14th.

Bless this Lent: Join Rev. Rebecca to explore using The Hardest Part during this season of Lent. Kate Bowler and her team at Everything Happens Project offer this study. Together, we will embrace Lent as it is—raw, honest, and tender. This is the season that asks us to stop pretending we're holding it all together. It's a time to pause, sit with what's fragile and unfinished, and let God meet us in the hardest parts of our lives. Thursday evenings, starting on Thursday, March 6th, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Rev. Rebecca for the Zoom link.

Stella's Circle Pancake Breakfast for Homelessness is Tuesday, March 4 in the Lecture Hall from 7:00-10:30 am for a delicious pancake breakfast by our Stella's Brasserie to support Stella's housing programs and services.

Volunteers Needed: Stella's Circle would really appreciate some volunteers to help serve the breakfast, on Tuesday March 4th. Folks won't have to do any flipping – all food will be cooked on site by our Stella's Brasserie team. Volunteers will serve guests their plates and offer them coffee and tea. We're looking to fill two shifts of volunteers: the first from 6:45am arrival for serving from 7:00-8:30am, and the second with an 8:15am arrival for serving 8:30-10:30am. Early morning, but this year we're delighted to have the Inclusion Choir perform around 8:45 am with their affordable housing hit, "If Had A Grant!" Pancakes as our thank you at the end! If you are able to help out, please send your name and email to Laura Ivany (l.ivany@stellascircle.ca).

ENGAGEMENT: Whose team are you on? Your stewardship team, for once, is not asking for money! Instead, we are asking you to increase your engagement with our faith community. By volunteering for at least one of Gower's teams. We will hand out a brief outline of each team's purpose and the commitment involved, ahead of an "Engagement Expo" to be held during coffee hour after the service on the 16th of March. Team leaders will be available in the Lecture Hall to answer your questions and, when you decide which team to join, take your contact details. Please, consider prayerfully how you can contribute to the ministry of our faith community!

Coffee Time Discussion: Join us on March 9th, following worship during coffee time as we continue to discern our vision and dreams for Gower, with thoughts from the board regarding a strategic plan development in response to the ending of Vision 2025.

Confirmation Classes: Confirmation is an opportunity for individuals previously baptized to renew the vows made on their behalf in Baptism. Often, this takes place around the age of 12 or when an individual feels they can take on the vows for themselves. Based on interest at Gower, we offer separate confirmation classes for youth and adults.

At services of confirmation, opportunity is also given to those who may wish to transfer their membership from another congregation within the United Church of Canada or from other Christian denominations.

Opportunity is also given to those who have felt a particular calling of God in their life, perhaps in response to specific life experiences, when returning to active participation in a congregation after a period of distance, or simply by having their "hearts strangely warmed" and have experienced an awakening to a deeper understanding of the promises made in their baptism for the Reaffirmation of their Baptismal Vows. This process is sometimes called the "Profession of Faith."

Email Rev. Rebecca if you are interested in Confirmation Classes, Profession of Faith or Membership transfer or if you'd like more information.

Broadview 100th Anniversary Keepsake Issue: The June issue of Broadview will be a historic keepsake edition celebrating the United Church's 100th anniversary — a once-in-a-lifetime issue filled with powerful stories, pivotal moments and reflections on the past, present and future of the church. For the first time ever, you can pre-order additional copies. If you are interested in being part of a bulk order from Gower for this special issue, contact SuAn in the office before March 30th, 2025. Cost per issue will range between \$7.00 to \$4.00 depending on the number of people interested in ordering.

Weekly Activities:

Tuesday, March 4: Stella's Circle Pancake Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Pancake Supper at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday Worship at 10:00 a.m. (Online), Pastoral Care Worship at Tiffany Village at 3:00 p.m., Gower Handbell Choir at 6:30 p.m., Gower Community Band at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 27: Pause for Prayer at 4:30 p.m. (Online), Bless This Lent at 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)

Spirit of Newfoundland Fundraiser: Get Ready for a Night of Laughter, Mystery, and Mischief!



It's Prohibition time in Newfoundland, and Spirit of Newfoundland is bringing you the most exciting show of the year—Lover's Lies and Libations - A Prohibition Tale!

On March 28, 2025, Gower St UC doors open at 6:30 p.m. to a rollicking evening full of chaos, mistaken identities, and bootlegged spirits! The irrepressible Doyle family has transformed their family-owned pub into a funeral home with a hidden gem—Prohibition Hall, a speakeasy tucked away in the shadows. But when opening night brings a flurry of mistaken identities, unexpected guests, and a flurry of uproarious shenanigans, this is an evening of fun you'll never forget.

Dinner, Show, and Non-Stop Entertainment – All for just \$120 per person!

This is your chance to grab your spot for an unforgettable night filled with laughter, libations, and the kind of drama you'll be talking about for months!

To bypass downtown parking, park at St. James and take our taxi service to Gower St UC. Enquire about our childcare availability. Dietary considerations are available upon request. Tax receipts (\$50.00 per ticket) will be issued for the charitable portion of the ticket.

Tickets are selling fast, so get yours today by contacting SuAn in the church office by phone (709-753-7286 ext. 200) or email. Payment is due on purchase via cheque, e-transfer or cash.

Hosted by Gower St, St. James, and Cowan Heights United Churches. Don't wait—this night promises to be an absolute blast, and you're going to want to be there when the Prohibition Hall shenanigans unfold. Proceeds will be shared between the three churches in support of their ministries.