

March 9, 2025
Lent One
Communion

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.

The bulletin today is dedicated in memory of
Pte. Lester D. Barbour
who died March 10, 1918, at Passchendale, Belgium
by nephews Leslie Barbour, Lester Barbour & Carl Wright

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Erbarm' dich Mein, O Herre Gott Buxtehude

We sing: VU 114 Forty Days and Forty Nights Heine

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:

We come to this place of worship on this first Sunday of Lent seeking a space of embrace, of reshaping, and of sending forth.

We have settled into this space, in person and through technology, joined in God's timelessness.

When the world confuses and confounds us, still, we come in hope and in anticipation.

We come in trust that our hearts will meet with the heart of the Divine.

Come, then, be enfolded in God's divine heart through the intimacy of prayer.

Gathering Prayer:

Lead us into the Season of Lent, O God;

help us to reflect on the areas of our lives that call for change.

We nestle into your loving, sustaining embrace, O God. In the cold of winter, warm us with the Spirit's flame of inspiration.

In the bluster of northern winds, still our minds that we may choose the way of wholeness.

On the slippery, dangerous ice of uncertainty, give us traction to be in the grip of stories of Jesus' self-giving.

Free us to become ever more those who follow you. Amen.

Extinguishing the First Candle of Lent:

Douglas Dunsmore

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle to represent our hopes for a better world. We rest in the glow of that candle now.

(a moment of silence)

As we reflect upon the uncertainty of the times of the world in which we live, we acknowledge how hard it is to remain hopeful that anything can get better, that anything will change, that the tomorrow we long for is even possible, let alone attainable.

As we gaze upon this candle representing hope, we feel as if we are trying to keep that small flame alive amid drenching rains and forceful winds, becoming more and more exhausted amid this relentless storm.

(Candle is Extinguished)

Choral Response: Drop, Drop Slow Tears

Gibbons

As the shadows of Lent come closer, we extinguish our candle of hope, just for today, as we seek to reconnect with whatever it is that keeps us going, keeps us coming back, keeps us grounded in the faith that makes us who we are.

We sing: MV 95 How Deep the Peace

Young People are invited to join Rev. Rebecca in Gower Learners while we sing

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Responsive Psalm: VU p. 807 Psalm 91
I will raise you up on eagle's wings.

Marjory Green

A reading from the Gospel: Luke 4:1-13
Jesus tested in the desert.

Response: VU 118 Wonder and Stare
Sung twice, first by the choir, then by all.

Iona Community

Meditative Pause

Prayer Of Transformation

Words of Assurance:

We come into God's presence with nothing but ourselves and our attempts to follow Jesus in imperfect ways. The gracious words that God declares are "that is enough."

It is by God's grace that we are saved. God takes what we offer and fills our emptiness with Christ's redeeming power.

Thanks be to God for this good news. Live in the peace of Christ. **Amen.**

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:

As we present our offerings, may we be reminded of the sacrifices that others have made to build the kin-dom of God here on earth. May we be reminded of our struggles in following the good news in all our ways of living. And may these offerings be a blessing for any who need blessing in their lives. Let us present our offerings.

We sing: VU 293 We Praise You, Creator Lyons

Offering Prayer:

Loving God, we are always tempted to keep what we already have, yet you whisper to us a different, more radical purpose: “Give your time to build relationships that make a difference.

Give your talent in community to foster a space of unconditional loving. Give your treasure to share bounty with others.”

We are paying attention, wise Spirit. We ask that you bless what we give, that we may be faithful witnesses to the Way of Jesus. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table:

Welcome, friends! We meet with the spirit of the Creator at the great feasting table. The Holy One who walked with our ancestors walks with us now in this season of winter.

Our God will walk with our children for years to come. In the very air that we breathe, in the sound of whistling wind, and the slap of the waves on the shore,

we give you thanks for your presence.

In the sound of children's laughter and in the songs of our elders,

we give you thanks for your presence.

Lift your broken hearts:

We lift them up to God!

Let us honour our Creator.

It is right to honour God.

It is right to honour God and to give our thanks.

We give our thanks to God.

The Great Thanksgiving:

We bless you for all your gifts. You brought creation to birth and sent prophets to awaken us to your great dream - a dream in which everyone is treated with dignity and love, justice and mercy, honour and hospitality.

We praise you for elders and prophets, visionaries and leaders, teachers and preachers, all who have shared the great truth of your love. We praise you for our brother Jesus, love in human form, who showed to us in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in tenderness and compassion, your great heart of love.

With the flying ones, the swimming ones, the four-legged ones, and the crawling ones, with rocks and trees, mountains and plains, with all creation, we humans raise our voices to you as we sing:

We sing: MV 203 Holy, Holy, Holy

As we gather at this feasting table, we remember that on the night before he died, Jesus feasted with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you, broke the bread, and gave

it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Whenever you feast together, remember me." '

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Drink! This cup is the promise of God. Whenever you drink together, remember me." Remembering your boundless love shown to us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise as we proclaim the great mystery of our faith:

We sing: MV 204 Memorial Acclamation

Holy Spirit, unite us at this feast.

May it strengthen us to live the resurrected and reconciled life of Jesus in creation.

Prayers for our world and the Prayer of Jesus

We sing: MV 205 Great Amen

Words of Institution:

Christ's body broken, healed for you. **Amen.**

The cup of rich blessing poured out for you. **Amen.**

Welcome to the Table

All things are now ready.

Come to the table with all your kin and share with all in need,

the gift of healing for those of us in pain,

the gift of reconciliation for those of us estranged,

the gift of assurance for those of us in doubt,

and the gift of hope for those of us in tears.

May we who share these gifts, share Christ with one another and with all our kin.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Communion Anthem: Ave Verum Corpus Mozart

Prayer after Communion:

Eternal and Gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world more just.

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Send us forth, O God, in faith, in hope, and in love. **Amen.**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 115 Jesus, Tempted in the Desert Beach Spring

We go out into the world:

Let us go forward into the uncertainties of life.

Let us be open to the guidance of the Spirit.

Let us go forward certain that God will calm our spirits as we confront our fears.

Let us go forward knowing that we are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

We sing: Soli Deo Gloria

Postlude: Fugue in g minor, BWV 578

J.S. Bach

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent/Easter 2025, Year C.

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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

JOIN



AT SPIRIT OF NEWFOUNDLAND FOR



MAR 28
7:00 PM

A THREE-COURSE DINNER THEATRE
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