

November 2nd, 2025 21st Sunday After Pentecost

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. This province of Newfoundland and Labrador is home to diverse populations of Indigenous and other peoples who have contributed to 9,000 years of history. We acknowledge with respect the deep histories and cultures of the Mi'kmaq, Innu, and Inuit. 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 seekers of justice, 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 SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Coelestis Urbs Jerusalem Dupré
Coelestis Urbs Jerusalem – Based on an ancient plainsong melody, this meditation expresses the beauty and peace of the heavenly city.

We sing: VU 642 Be Thou My Vision Slane

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.

Light of Faith:

Jesus noticed Zacchaeus, the reviled and possibly corrupt tax collector. Jesus invited himself to dinner, transforming Zacchaeus in and for love. Then Jesus declared,
“Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a child of God. For I have come to seek out and to save the lost.”

As we light this Christ candle, let us pledge to follow the Way of Jesus as people also transformed for love. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

Gathering Words:

As we move deeper into the fall season, witnessing the falling leaves and feeling the cooling temperatures, we take time to celebrate God’s bounty among and within us.

We come, then, to cherish the gifts we share with one another, to treasure the riches of our relations as a body of living faith, connected to all of creation.

Sometimes, O God, we consider the growing bareness of the trees, wondering what to expect in the fallow time of winter, yet to come.

We have experienced the circle of life that keeps renewing.

We hope for that same renewing among and within each of us, yet also within this, our family of faith, and within creation itself.

As we gather for worship, may we keep discovering your gifts as we weave them into a whole, as we uncover wisdom in our giving and receiving.

In our weaving, as we follow your pattern, may we be made whole. Amen.

Gathering Prayer:

Holy God, you know us as we are.

You know that each one of us comes with things to celebrate and gloomy thoughts that cloud our perspective.

You reach out to us in this time of worship, that our perspective may be cleared and refocused.

You reach out to us and invite us to experience the healing and the joy of your company.

Let us be transformed by your actions and your presence. **Amen.**

We Sing: VU 672 Take Time to Be Holy, Vs. 1, 2 Holiness

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries Judi Somers

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

Exploring Pentecost

We Sing: VU 672 Take Time to Be Holy, vs.3 Holiness

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Karen Tuck

Word of Life, come to us this morning through the holy scriptures, through song and praise, through one another, and through silence. **Amen.**

A reading from the Hebrew Scripture: Habakkuk: 1:1-4; 2:1-4

How long will it be until God acts?

Responsive Psalm: VU p.841 Psalm 119:137-144

God's judgements are just.

A reading from the Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Jesus dines with Zacchaeus.

Anthem: Give us The Wings of Faith

Whitbourn

Meditation

We sing: VU 266 Amazing Grace

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:

Loving God, we recognize that your blessings come in so many ways; we seek to be a blessing to others. **Use and multiply these gifts so that the work of our church here and around the world can be a sign of your caring presence. Amen.**

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

Offering Prayer:

We bring the first fruits of our labour and love for the support of our spiritual home and work. **Bless and multiply these outer symbols of our generosity so that many more may share in the bountiful experience of Jesus in renewal, restoration, and resurrection. Amen.**

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 716 My Life Flows On How Can I Keep from Singing

We go out into the world:

As we go forth for God, **may our spirits climb the trees to glimpse the light of Jesus, and may we know when to climb down again to follow in God's footsteps.**

May we choose to live in a good way, loving and serving others, and living with respect in creation with deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.

May the blessing of Jesus' teachings, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit go with us always and in all ways. Amen.

Threefold Amen

Danish

Postlude: Placare Christe servulis (Toccat) Dupré
Placare Christe Servulis – Based on the ancient hymn Placare Christe Servulis, and written for the Feast of All Saints, this toccata celebrates divine mercy in praise and thanksgiving.

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 2, 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 Parady
Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding
Custodian: David Noseworthy
Board Chair: Jonathan Stevenson



What's Up at Gower

Reduced Hours: Starting on October 31, 2025, Rev. Rebecca will use some of her vacation time to work fewer hours per week. She will still be working weekly and will be at worship, but response times will be slower, and she will not be around the office as much during the week.

Condolences: We extend our condolences to Carl Goulding and family on the passing of his mother, Elise (Carter) Goulding, on October 24, 2025. Visitation will take place at Carnell's Funeral Home on Friday, October 31, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and 7:00- 9:00 p.m. Funeral service will be held from Gower Street United Church on Saturday, November 1, at 10:00 a.m., with interment to follow at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

We extend our condolences to the family of Chiew Gnoh Wong, who passed away on October 20, 2025. An inurnment service was held to celebrate Chiew's life on Thursday, October 30, at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

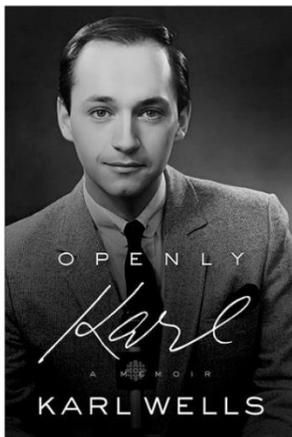
Congratulations: We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Leah Nash and Bradley Raymond, who married in the Gower Sanctuary on Saturday, November 1, 2025. We wish you many years of happiness and love.



2025 Gower Online Auction: How you can help make it a success! We are seeking your help in obtaining donations of items and in particular items exceeding \$100 in value for this year's online Auction. We will be providing a tax-deductible receipt for all items exceeding this amount, so please be our ambassador in soliciting donations from business or individuals who can provide such items. An official letter that you can provide any potential donors can be picked up at the Church. Please bring items to the Church Office on November 12 to 15 or 18 and 19 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The Auction, which will be found at www.bartlettauctions.com, will open at noon on Sunday, November 23 and close the following Sunday, November 30 at 7:00pm! We look forward to your support and if you have any questions please contact Bert Riggs or Lorne LeDrew.

Donations to Seniors Gala: We are looking for small Christmas items to fill the Christmas baskets. These can be brought along on Sunday, dropped off at the office, or picked up by a committee member. Contact Linda Nickerson.

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 Felyn, the office administrator, during office hours via email (gsuc@nl.rogers.com) or phone 709-753-7286 ext. 200.



Openly Karl A Lunch and Learn with Karl Wells

Sunday, November 16, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

Worship followed by Lunch and Learn
session with Karl Wells



Lunch and Learn with Karl Wells: Join us on November 16, 2025, for Openly Karl, a Lunch and Learn following worship. This is a time for our community to gather with local writer, broadcaster, actor, and long-time Gower member, Karl Wells and learn about his new memoir and life. We gratefully acknowledge the generous support from The Centennial Granting Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation, which helped bring this event to life.



Seniors' Christmas Gala

Tuesday, 25th of November 2025

Tickets are \$25.00

Ticket Sales Start on November 13, 2025
Purchase tickets via Gower Office
99 Queens Rd. 709-753-7286.
Office Hours Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Fridays 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Payment (cash, cheque or e-transfer)
due on ticket distribution

Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings
Entertainment by the Walsh Family
Accepting Food Bank Donations (or a Loonie)
Draws for Door Prizes

Doors Open at 4:30 PM - Dinner starting 5 PM



Seniors Christmas Gala: Save the date! Our traditional Seniors Christmas Gala will take place on Tuesday, the 25th of November, in the Lecture Hall at Gower Street United Church. Musical entertainment by the Walsh Family. Tickets \$25.00 may be ordered from the Church office on November 13. A slight change from previous years: Doors will open at 4:30 p.m., and the traditional meal will be served starting at 5:00 p.m.

Coming up at Gower

Sunday Worship:

November 2: Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
November 9: Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, Remembrance Sunday
November 16: Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 23: Reign of Christ Sunday
November 30: Advent One

Weekly Activities:

November 2: Book Study following Worship, Family Faith Every Day at 4:00 p.m.
November 5: Pastoral Care Worship at Tiffany Village at 3:00 p.m., Gower Youth at 5:00 p.m., Bell Choir at 6:30 p.m., Gower Community Band at 7:30 p.m.
November 6: Pause for Prayer at 4:30 p.m. (Online)
November 7: Children, Education and Families Meeting at 4:30 p.m.