

November 30th, 2025 First Sunday of Advent

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.



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.

Today's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
The Rev. Florence Sanna
From
Linda Braine, Jean Smith, Marion Davis, Marion Parady.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary:

We sing: VU 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Plainsong melody

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:

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Most High.
There we will receive instructions on how to live in hope.
Come, let us go to the house of the Dreamer,
There we will melt our guns into bridges,
And turn our bombs into wells
Come, let us Worship our God and our Guide.

Gathering Prayer:

Gentle Creator, who travels beside us and dwells among us, we gather in this community to feel your embrace.
We are waiting in joyful anticipation for the arrival of your son, God- Made-Flesh.
Ready our hearts for the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love that arrives with the birth of Jesus.
Open our senses to your messages today, enable us to feel your grace weaving between us and drawing us closer to you and to each other. Amen.

Advent Unwrapped Video: Hope

Exploring Advent

Advent Candle Lighting: The Cameron Family (Patrick, Kathleen, George and Matilda)
Hope is a star.
Winter stars shine for us, pointing the way to something new, something true.
A way of trust.
Hope is a star of possibility.

(Candle is lit)

May the gift of this candle's bright flame, remind us of God's gift of Hope.

Sung response: We Light this candle, v.1 Pat Mayberry

We sing: VU 4 God of All Places Whittlesey

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination: O God, help us to sense your message as we receive the words of scripture and carry your hope and guidance forward with us throughout our daily life. Amen

Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 122 (vu. p. 845)
With joy to God's house.

A reading from Scripture: Romans 13:11-14
Wake up! The day is near.

A reading from the Gospels: Matthew 24:36-44
No one knows the hour.

Advent Gospel Response: Alleluia. Prepare the way of God

Anthem: People, Look East

Meditation

We sing: VU 374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre Beach Spring

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

We sing: VU 34 Come Now, O God of Peace O-So-So



Offering Prayer:

O God of Hope, waken our hearts to know the power we have to make a difference.

Give us wisdom to trust your voice, prompting us to act, to risk reaching out in love.

Make us bold: generously offering hot chocolate and cookies and a kind word to a stranger; discovering you reflected in the joy of dancing in a crowd.

Waken our hearts to know when we have made a difference, Gracious God. This we ask as we offer our gifts today. Amen

Prayers for the World

Prayer of Jesus

**Our Parent in Heaven, whose love knows no bounds,
Your name is holy, held in the highest regard.**

May Your realm of love, acceptance, and justice come,

May Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,

Guiding us to honour each other's dignity and worth.

Give us today our daily bread, the sustenance we need,

And forgive us our prejudices as we forgive those who are prejudiced against us,

Lead us away from judgment and deliver us from the hands of hatred.

For Yours is the realm of unconditional love, the power to change hearts,

And the glory of diversity in unity, now and forever.

May all of us, created beautifully and wonderfully in Your image,

Live and love in the spirit of Your Son, who taught us to pray,

Embracing each other, as You embrace us all. Amen.

GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 29 Hark the Glad Sound

Richmond

We go out into the world:

Awaken to the Light of Jesus around us,

In nature, in friends, in all your relationships.

Awaken to the Light of Jesus between us

In relationships, in bonds, in fellowship and kinship.

Awaken to the light of Jesus within us

In our gifts, in our love, in our instinct and being.

May we each awaken to the Light of Jesus.

May we each awaken to the gift of HOPE.

And may this Hope bless and guide you always. **Amen!**

We sing: VU 22 Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord

Postlude:  Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 JS Bach

Worship today was inspired by Gathering,

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

To the Glory of God

Donations to the
Choral Scholarship
Fund Choir
in loving memory of
Elsie Goulding
from Marion Pardy,
Roberta & Llyod Gill,
Charlie Hope &
Family, Ruby &
Aubrey Hil.

Donations to the
Operating Fund
in loving memory of
**Clarence Buck
Taylor, Alma and
Mark Badcock &
Carolyn**
from Win Kennedy

Donations to the
Operating Fund
in loving memory of
Ruth Churchill
from Roberta & Llyod
Gill

Donations to the
Operating Fund
in loving memory of
Doris Bursey
from Linda
Atwill Boone.

The Gower Community Band Pops Concert will take place on November 30th at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us at Gower for some Christmas fun as the Gower Community Band presents Christmas A Downtown Pops Concert with special guests the Francophone Choir: La rose des vents and Guy Matthews as Emcee. Free admission with donations to The Community Foundation Newfoundland & Labrador North Shore Fires Recovery Fund (<https://cfnl.ca/northshore/>) is welcomed.

Etcetera Productions Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 7, 2025: On Sunday evening, December 7th, the 42nd Traditional Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols will take place in the sanctuary of Gower Street United Church, at 6:30 pm. The mass choir features singers from the performance groups at the Music Studios of Etcetera Productions: the Junior Show Choir, the Show Choir, and the Ensemble. The performers' families and the music studio teachers, Carl Goulding, Justin Goulding, Megan Barnes, and Rebecca Goulding Arsenault, look forward to another beautiful musical celebration of the Christmas season. Admittance is \$20, paid at the door, and doors open for concert goers at 5:30 pm. The profits of the evening are donated annually to Gower Street United Church. Everyone is welcome to attend on December 7th, and we hope to make this evening a wonderful beginning to the Christmas Season and a significant fundraiser for Gower Street United Church.

Parade Lunch: Following worship on Sunday, November 30, we will have our traditional Kraft Dinner and hot dog lunch for anyone who wishes to have lunch before heading down to see the Downtown Santa Claus Parade. We hope you can join us. Everyone is welcome!

Gifts with Vision: Give meaningful gifts that make a difference with Gifts with Vision! Each year's gift catalogue gives a glimpse of the breadth of our Mission and Service ministries and programs. Gifts with Vision has gift ideas to suit every interest, budget, and person. It's a great way to celebrate special occasions and honour loved ones! The gift catalogue is updated online regularly and is fully refreshed every fall. You can visit <https://giftswithvision.ca/> to view online catalogue.

The Annual Gower Street United Church Congregational Christmas Dinner, sponsored by the Gower Service and Social Club, will take place at the Lecture Hall (auditorium) on Tuesday, December 09, 2025. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and dinner will be served starting at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Carol Sing. The meal will include a traditional turkey dinner catered by Spirit of Newfoundland, with Christmas puddings made by a team of volunteers from Gower. Tickets cost \$30.00 per person and can be purchased from Bert Riggs. Tickets must be purchased by 5:00pm on Sunday December 07, 2025.



GOWER COMMUNITY BAND
PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS

A DOWNTOWN POPS CONCERT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

3:00PM

Gower Street United Church

CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR
NORTH SHORE FIRES RECOVERY FUND.

FREE ADMISSION, DONATIONS ACCEPTED!

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Francophone Choir:

La rose des vents

AND EMCEE: GUY MATTHEWS

DOOR PRIZES!
EVERYONE WELCOME!