

April 5, 2026 Resurrection/Easter 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 **Rudy Laite and Dereck Power** from Cheryl & Ken Hanlon and Family.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary:

Thine is the Glory *from* Judas Maccabeus

Christ ist Erstanden BWV 627

Chorale Prelude on a Melody by Melchoir Vulpius

Handel

J S Bach

Willan

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.

Processional: VU 155 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

arr. Rutter

Lighting of the Candle of Faith:

As we light this candle, we acknowledge that there is pain and suffering in the world, yet we place our trust in God and in the way shown by Jesus.

In the midst of darkness, **there is light.**

In the pain of death, **there is life.**

In the face of what appear to us to be overwhelming odds,

God is at work in us and in the world, working for justice and peace, compassion and love, and life abundant.

Christ is risen;

Jesus is risen in us!

Christ is risen within us, for wherever we gather in his name,

Jesus is there.

Alleluia, Jesus is risen; Jesus is risen indeed!

Gathering Words:

The light which the world tried to extinguish cannot be put out.

Today we light the candles again, proclaiming the transforming power of God.

As the light returns, we give thanks that God's transforming love has been, is now, and will ever be at work within us.

Today we celebrate: new life, new joy, new possibilities.

Jesus is alive and living among us!

Gathering Prayer:

God of love and new beginnings,

we welcome you into our hearts today.

We welcome each other as we gather to praise your wonders.

May the season of Easter lift us from our winter times and restore us in your life. Hallelujah! Amen!

We Sing: VU 345 Come Children, Join to Sing, Vs 1 and 2

Madrid

Exploring Easter

Rev. Karen

We sing: VU 345 Come, Children, Join to Sing, Vs.3

Madrid

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A reading from the Gospel: Matthew 28:1–10
Mary and the empty tomb.

Gospel Response: Alleluia

Schutz

Anthem: Crown Him!

Diademata
arr. Dan Forrest

Meditation

We sing: VU 164 The Day of Resurrection

Ellacombe

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.



Gathering our Gifts:

Easter changes everything; **we have moved from death and shadows into life and resurrection.**

The first group of believers were so changed that they gave all they possessed to sustain the needs of their community.

**In thankfulness for the blessings of Easter,
we give of ourselves to God,
who gives us new life through Jesus.**

We sing: VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow

Old100h

Offering Prayer:

Take these gifts we offer, O God, and bless them as our hallelujahs! **May they become hallelujahs for people near and far, our discipleship lived in answer to fear, to separation, and to inequity. In our giving, may we become hallelujahs for each other and for people we encounter, living signs of your love in the world. Amen.**

Prayers for the World

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Hallelujah! Jesus is risen indeed!

We sing: VU 960 The Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 161 Welcome, Happy Morning

Hermas

We go out into the world:

Our worship time has ended, and we rejoice in the miracle of the resurrection.

With faith we proclaim, “Jesus is risen! Alleluia!”

May all you do and share, all that you are, declare this Good News!

God’s love radiates through each of us.

May the glory of the Risen Jesus be revealed within you.

May the mystery of the Holy Spirit guide us, this day and always. Amen.

We Sing: MV 122 This is the Day

arr. Grace Dunsmore

Bruce Harding

We extend our sincere thanks to the Brass and Percussion instrumentalists for joining our congregation in worship this morning. The sharing of your musical gifts has greatly enriched our service and added a spirit of joy and celebration to our time together. We are most grateful for your contribution.

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Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter
Interim Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Karen Thorne
Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy
Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding
Custodian: David Noseworthy
Board Chair: Jonathan Stevenson

To The Glory of God

Donations to the Operating Fund

In loving memory of our parents **Stanley & Mary Noftall, brothers Stanley & Bernard, sister Mary Elms & sisters in law Jackie, Esther & Cynthia** from Darren & Brenda Martin & the Noftall family

Donations to the Roof and Restoration Fund

In loving memory of **The Wylie, Whiteway & Barret Families** from Ian Barrett.

Donations to the Mission & Service Fund

In loving memory of **parents, grandparents & great-grandparents William & Mabel Jones, Harold & Annie Noel, brothers & uncles, Lloyd Jones & Selwyn Noel, and sister & Aunt Muriel King** from Darroch & Lois Jones, their children Nicole (Mathieu Larose), Stefan (Sara Slade) & Heather (Shane Rose) and their grandchildren Chloé Larose, Sophie Larose, Lincoln Rose, Anderson Rose, Sebastian Jones, and Dawson Jones.

Donations to the Benevolent Fund

In loving memory of our loving parents **Alfred & Amelia Laite, brothers; Gordon, Alfred Rudolph and Douglas; Sisters Nina (Peggy) and Joan** from Janette and family

In loving memory of our special cousins, uncles and aunts in Noftall and Kerrivan families from Janette Laite and family



Coming Up At Gower

Sunday Worship

April 12: Second Sunday of Easter – 11:00am

Weekly Activities

April 5: Gower Learners Club – 11:00am

April 12: Book Study continues after Service.



Holy Week, March 29 – April 5, 2026

For Christians, Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating on Easter Sunday, is a holy time in the faith journey. The year Holy Week coincides with Passover (Pesach) of our Jewish Neighbours (Passover began on sundown, April 1st).

Palm Sunday commemorates the biblical story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey (a symbol of peace and humility), in contrast to that of Roman warriors, dressed in military splendor, demanding allegiance. Particular stories continue throughout the week and then, on “Maundy” Thursday, Jesus ate his last meal with his disciples, assumed to be a Passover meal, ending with a washing of the disciples’ feet and the ‘commandment’ (Maundy, from Latin, ‘mandatum’, command) to follow his example of ‘hospitality’ and ‘humble service’ to others.

From this ‘event’, the early Church instituted the Eucharist or the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Thursday evening and Friday contain the story of betrayal by one of Jesus’ followers, Judas, the arrest by soldiers, and the public spectacle of crucifixion by the Romans. The early Christian Church named the day as “Good” Friday, not because of the horrific act of crucifixion, rather because of the outcome, the Resurrection on Sunday.

Numerous themes are highlighted by different Christian denominations: three primary messages are emphasized: our calling to end ‘crucifixions’ (violence and suffering) wherever they are found; our hope-in-action that love has victory over violence and hate, and that, from the pain and sorrow of death, new life can rise; a sense of the Divine Presence being with us in life, in death and in life beyond death.

It remains a powerful message in the midst of our personal struggles, the destructive wars and other forms of violence in our world and the on-going Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and other religious prejudices and hatred. The Christian story and all other faith stories call us to ‘hope-in-action’ or, as one person shares, “hope needs help”.

HAPPY PASSOVER TO OUR JEWISH FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY – Sundown, April 1 – 9, 2026

Passover (Pesach) is a festival of liberation. Marking the Hebrews' liberation from slavery in Egypt and exodus to the holy land. It is celebrated at home and not in synagogues. Family and friends gather for festive dinners in which they remember the hardships that Hebrews endured as slaves in Egypt. Seders recall the Exodus. Remembering the haste with which they departed, Jews eat unleavened bread (matzo) and foods recalling hardships Jews suffered, as well as the miracles (plagues) that Moses used to persuade Pharaoh to let his Hebrews go. The seder begins with readings from a Haggadah, a booklet that recounts the story, responding to questions – “Why is this night different from all other nights...” -- posed by the youngest child. Although there are standard Haggadah, many families use versions, sometimes purpose written, that address contemporary issues. One thing they have in common is raising questions and having fun: Serious discussion devolves into singing songs and a search for the *afikomen* – matzo that has been hidden by children or adults – without which the seder cannot end. The underlying theme is that ancient struggles liberate not only those who fled Pharaoh's Egypt, but also those who celebrate Passover today. Retelling the ancient story reinforces a hope – “This year here, next year in Jerusalem (figuratively)” – of liberation. Passover falls in the Hebrew month of Nissan and often coincides with Easter. Central to the life and death of Christ, the Last Supper was a celebration of Passover. The term itself refers to one of the ten plagues – the death of the first-born child – inflicted on the ancient Egyptians: The angel of death passed over homes whose doorposts were smeared with lambs' blood.

(Passover Article, submitted by: Dr. Steven Wolinetz, Jewish Community Havura)

