

## February 22, 2026 First Sunday of Lent

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.



99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145  
E-Mail: [office@gowerunited.com](mailto: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.**

## **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

### **The Life and Work of Gower**

#### **Voluntary:**

**We sing:** VU 402 We Are One

We Are One

#### **Words of Welcome**

Welcome! Welcome in Jesus' name, welcome!  
First-time participant or one who's been here many days.  
child or elder or somewhere in-between.  
stewards, caretakers, disciples, children of God  
neighbours, all loved and loving.  
Welcome. Welcome in Jesus' name!

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.

#### **A Time for Silent Reflection**

##### **Gathering Words:**

As we travel this Lenten pathway,  
we journey together, as community of faith.

**As we travel this Way of Jesus,  
we journey together, but also as individuals.**

Practising our faith:

**living Christ's call  
to love God with all that we are,  
to love our neighbour  
as we love ourselves.**

Practising our faith:

**as stewards on the Way.**

##### **Gathering Prayer**

God of the hungry times,  
God of the difficult times,  
God of all the times of our lives,  
we need to talk.

**Sometimes it's difficult to understand  
the direction we need to go.**

**With all the choices we have in our lives,  
sometimes we're not sure**

**when to say "Yes,"  
or when to say "No."**

So we ask for your guidance.

**We ask for wisdom.**

**We ask for Spirit.**

**In our worship, in our work,  
in our choices, in our lives.**

**May it be so, loving God. Amen.**

**Call to the Light**

It is holy time as we fade into Lent's journey.

**In this holy time,**

**we go to see what will die with Jesus.**

Testing the limits of justice, we look for light.

**Calling to the powers of this world, we claim our light.**

Lamenting the violence and destruction of this world,

we believe that more light will shine.

**Living in the light of God,**

**we know that our fire does not go out.**

Disappointing in the deaths that did not have to be, we look for renewal.

**Longing for peace, we imagine how our fire will be rekindled.**

**(Silent Pause)**

As this candle is extinguished, **we look into each other's hearts and hands for the hope of the world.**

**(The candle is extinguished.)**

**Moment of Silence**

O Light of Our World, give us strength to face the things we fear.

**As we go deeper into the Lenten Journey with Jesus by our side, let us be the light that our world needs; in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 703 In the Bulb There is a Flower

Promise

**THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM**

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

***Jesus Blesses Little Children***

*13 Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; 14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Mark 10: 13-15)*

**Presentation of Candidates:**

*(Karen Tuck, Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)*

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church,

I present:

**George Russell Kachur &**

**Thomas Douglas Kachur**

children of

Michelle Elizabeth Pratt &

Klay Logan Kachur

**The Profession of Faith and Promises:**

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit? **I do, by the grace of God.**

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice? **I do, God being my helper.**

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ? **I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your siblings in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, and love and serve others? **I will, God being my helper.**

**Congregational Commitment:**

Let us pledge our support and care.

**As a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the wider community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism. Amen.**

**We Sing:** VU 455 This Child of Ours, Vs 2

Aimee

**LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**A reading from the Gospel:** Matthew 4: 1-11  
The temptation of Jesus.

**Gospel Response:** VU 956

Daley

**Prayer of Transformation:**

Gracious God, we live in the sureness of your unconditional love and abundant mercy.

**Merciful God, we come before you in prayer.**

With heavy hearts, we bear the guilt of our transgressions and shortcomings.

**Merciful God, we come before you in prayer.**

In the spirit of openness and honesty and the willingness to seek repentance,

**Merciful God, we come before you in prayer.**

*(a time of silent prayer)*

***Words of Assurance***

Be assured of God's steadfast love and compassion.

We are never alone, never left to struggle alone in whatever guilt we feel or burdens we carry.

Our Merciful God forgives us, guides us, and holds us, now and always.

MV 46 Bless the Lord (Refrain Only) *Sung twice*

**Hymn during Communion:** For Everyone Born  
For Everyone Born

**We Gather at the Table:**

Come to this table—the table of Jesus—which is set to welcome each and all of us.

**We give thanks for that unconditional invitation.**

No one is refused at this table.

**We gather around this table with anticipation and joy.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give God our thanks and our praise.

**It is right to give God our thanks and our praise.**

We bless you, O God, for giving us life and the wonders of creation.

We thank you for the richness of the fields, for the power of growth, and for the goodness we gain from crops and other products we can produce for ourselves and for a hungry world.

**We give thanks for the miracle of seed and for germination, growth, and ripening, for the abundance of water and good air, for the progress of the seasons, and for the skills and talents with which you have endowed us.**

We thank you for the abundance the earth provides, abundance that everyone should be able to enjoy with dignity and equality.

**Thank you, O God, for the food we eat and the friends with whom we share it, for the love and care of families, friends, and community, and for all the joys we share. We thank you, O God, who has given us life and life abundantly.**

## **Words of Institution**

## **Community Prayers**

We thank you, O God, for the gifts of friends, family and community and for the relationships we treasure.

**There is nourishment for our hearts in those connections.**

We lift to you the names of those for whom we care, trusting in your healing power. (silent prayer)

**We pray for all those living with illness, or injury, or disease, thankful that your Spirit guides them, strengthens them, and holds them.**

We pray for all those convalescing at home after surgery and those getting ready for surgery, grateful for your calming, strengthening presence as they wait.

**We pray for our hurting world. For the earth itself, for the people within who live amidst the terror of violence and war.**

For those who are hungry, both physically and spiritually.

**We pray for all those we hold in our hearts, lifting them to you in silent prayer.**

## **Prayer for the Spirit's Blessing**

Let us continue our prayer together:

As we gather at Christ's table, feed us, O God, with food for our souls.

**Through this bread and through this grape juice, may your blessings flow, taking what we offer and share here as our communion in and through you, uniting us as one by the Spirit's power. We pray that this may be so as we share your self-giving in sacrament as we begin our Lenten Journey. Amen.**

We gather all these prayers in the name of the one who is justice, peace and hope...

## **The Prayer of Jesus**

## **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray, once more, together:

**Thank you, O Jesus, for making us new at your table. Thank you, Gracious God, for loving us into wholeness. Thank you, O Spirit, for empowering us to live always in gratitude. 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](mailto: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:**

The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year, as a time for us to remember Jesus' journey.

**On that journey he met many people.**

**He laughed with them, he cried with them,  
he taught them, and he learned from them.**

**But, most of all, he loved them,  
not just with his words, but with his actions.**

**Jesus taught his followers that they were to  
love one another as he had loved them.**

Our offering is one way to do that,  
to share the work of our hands and hearts  
through our dollars and cents.

**As we share what we are able,  
we support the ministry here,  
and the ministry of The United Church of Canada  
through Mission and Service.**

Let us celebrate what God has given,  
and what we have to share.

**We sing:** VU 537 Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands, Vs.2

Kilmarnock

### **Offertory Prayer:**

We do not live on bread alone,  
but by your Word, loving God.

**May that Word fill our hearts and our hands,  
all that we have, and all that we are,  
that it may be a blessing in your world.**

**In Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.**

## **WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** MV 161 I have called you by your name

### **We go out into the world:**

As we travel this Lenten journey,  
**we know that God leads and guides us.**

As we travel this Lenten journey,  
**we notice the stories of Jesus making choices for  
life and ministry.**

As we travel this Lenten journey,  
**we dream and work with the Spirit for a world  
where peace and harmony are restored.**

We leave this place in peace,  
**going to share the love of God. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 424 May the God of Hope Go with Us, Vs 1

Argentina

**Postlude:** Biblical Sonata No.1, Mvts 4, 5

Kuhlau

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent, 2025/2026, Year C.*

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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

## **WHAT'S UP AT GOWER**

**Joint Fundraiser:** Tickets are selling fast, so get yours today. Hosted by Gower Street United Church, Cowan Heights United Church and St. James United Church, this promises to be an absolute blast when Shift Happens takes the stage on Thursday, February 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$120. NOTE: A \$50 tax receipt will be issued for the charitable portion. To book, please call the office or email [gsuc@nl.rogers.com](mailto:gsuc@nl.rogers.com). Payment by cheque, cash, or e-transfer is required at the time of purchase.

**SOCK IT to Ya SUNDAY**, has been rescheduled to **MARCH 1, 2026**.

This fun event will now be taking place *one week later* than originally planned. This will give everyone extra time to bring in **SOCKS** (new, please!) To donate, you can drop them off at the church office during our open hours or bring them to worship. Thanks to those who have already brought in socks. These donations will greatly help at-risk youth in our area. Some are hungry, homeless, or at risk of being unhoused. Socks are the items most often needed and the least donated. Let's have some fun once again this year while we also do something kind for youth!

**Chinese New Year:** This is Chinese New Year, February 17 – March 3 (2026); in addition, it is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chinese Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. Gower Street United extends our hearty congratulations to the Chinese community on this very special occasion, grateful for the manifold ways the presence, talents and skills of the Chinese community have enriched our church and community. Because of the long-term relationship of Gower with the Chinese community (since the 1980's, at least), The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald has been invited to their New Year's celebration to bring greetings and say Grace. This year's celebration is on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Convention Centre. Again, our hearty congratulations for a strong and successful year during this special year of the Fire Horse and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**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.

**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](mailto:gsuc@nl.rogers.com)) or phone 709-753-7286 ext. 200

## **COMING UP AT GOWER**

### **Sunday Worship Services:**

February 22: First Sunday of Lent/ Communion Sunday

March 1: Second Sunday of Lent

**Upcoming Weekly Activities:**

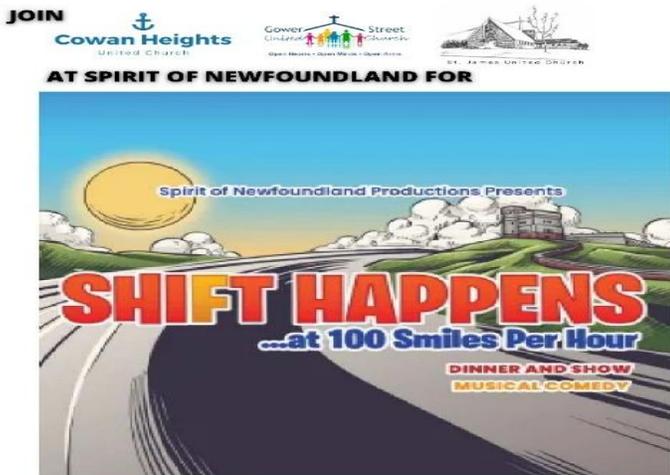
February 22: Gower Learners Club – 11:00am

February 11: Gower Youth Group Meeting - 4:30pm

**GIVING TO GOWER – HOW TO DONATE TO GOWER?**

Ways to maintain your financial support of our church -There are options available!

- Sign up for P.A.R. (Pre-Authorized Contributions), or consider increasing your contribution if you are already on P.A.R. This can be done by contacting the office by phone (709-753-7286) or by email (office@gowerunited.com)
- You can also go to our website by clicking the DONATE below
- We also accept e-transfer. Just send it to gsuc@nl.rogers.com
- You may also send a cheque via mail or drop it in the dropbox accessible to the right of the office entrance. Our mailing address is 99 Queens Road, St. John's, N.L., A1C 6M6



**FEB 26  
7:00 PM**

**A THREE-COURSE DINNER THEATRE  
GOWER THEATER , 208 GOWER STREET  
TICKETS \$120  
PLEASE PURCHASE IN ADVANCE  
(709) 753-7286 - GSUC@NL.ROGERS.COM**

