

January 11, 2026 Epiphany 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, color, 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 celebration of

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Impression on "We Three Kings"

Fedak

We sing: VU 81 As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

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.

In this season of Epiphany in Canada, we are now in the midst of the cold of winter. May the light of this candle warm our hearts, welcome us, and inspire us in our journey as we go forward.

Gathering Words:

When the ways of the world wear us down with constant demands or unrealistic expectations, we are invited to find refuge in God's grace.

Together, in worship, this is where we find our home.

When the morning sun is reflected off the snow and the skies open like a blue gift of joy, we are invited to notice God's presence. Let us take time for the vibrant life of creation to seep deeply into our souls.

Together, in worship, we are being made new.

Come, find refuge, find hope. Pay attention! Let us take time for the in-breathing of God's will. The Spirit calls you beloved.

Together, in worship, let our souls sing praise.

We come in prayer together. Let us pray:

Gathering Prayer:

With few words, O Christ, you called us,
choosing us to follow and to grow,

confounding "common sense" with wisdom and self-giving," accompanying us with Spirit challenge,
gracing us with hearts for justice and for hospitality.

**Unite our hearts in your symphony of passion,
adding our voices to yours in close harmony,
teaching us the melodies of your love. Amen.**

We sing: MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

Pat Mayberry

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries

Judi Somers

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination:

Now is the time for us to attend to you, O Holy One. We ask that you open our hearts and our spirits to receive your word today. As water flows from one place to another, let our outside thoughts flow away from us. Help us remember, perhaps not the words, but the intention behind our own baptisms, and baptisms we have witnessed, as we revisit Jesus' baptism today. Amen

A reading from Scripture: Isaiah 42-1-9

Mark Peters

I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to nations

A reading from the Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus is baptised by John

Anthem: Lead Me, Lord

Wesley

Meditation

Renewing our participation in God's Family:

The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by the Holy Spirit.

We gather to celebrate God's presence, to discern God's truth, and to follow the way of Jesus.

By baptism some are made members of God's church.

By water we know that God's love is unending and for all.

We all belong in many ways to the family of God.

This water symbolizes both life and belonging.

Let us pray:

Gracious and holy God, we bless you for the gift of life,

And within it, the gift of water.

Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation.

By water, comes the growth of the earth.

In the waters of the Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptised.

Let this action of sprinkled water be a sign for all of new life in Jesus, of belonging to God's family.

Let this water be a reminder of new life, new beginnings and sacred belonging. Thanks be to God.

Amen!

(Water is poured.)

Listen to the waters free-flowing powers.

Listen to its releasing powers.

We listen to its welcoming powers.

Sprinkling the Water of our Faith

O God of life and love,

you have given us the gift of water and within it the gift of new life.

Give us the courage and strength to go from this gathered time with renewed hope and vision.

May Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith.

May we be rooted and grounded in love

and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit and the gift of water.

Amen.

We sing: VU 644 I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry

Waterlife

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.roges.com. You can also scan the QR code on your mobile device to be brought directly to our website page.



Gathering our Gifts:

Our gathering today, O God, reminds us of our reliance upon one another and upon you. In this way, we would invite you to hold on to us in our baptism, to hold on to us with grace and tender purpose. Open hands and open hearts are offered to raise us up in the flow of the Spirit you freely pour out upon your people.

We sing: VU 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace

Offering Prayer: Mysterious, Calling God, you reach out to us and call us to use the gifts we have been given, as your beloved children, for the good of others and as blessing in this world. We respond in many ways, offering our time, our talents, our welcome to those whom we meet, and our compassion for others in need. Receive, O God, the gifts and acts of love extended because of your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Prayers for our World and Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 96 Will You Come and See the Light

Kelvingrove

We go out into the world: Go from here to live out your baptismal faith, and to let the waters of creation buoy you up and give you strength. May the Creator of all fill you with hope. May Jesus the Christ meet you at the table and fill you with a hunger for a better world for all. May the Spirit of Comfort and Liberation lead you into the path of peace.

We sing: VU 82 A Light is Gleaming (Refrain only)
Living in the Light

Organ Postlude: XII. Noel Suisse

Daquin

Worship today was inspired by Gathering,

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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

2026 Envelopes: The 2026 Collection Envelopes are now available in the Church Vestibule. **Please note that some envelope numbers have changed.**

Apply to Be a Discipleship Leader for Collective 2026: We're excited to announce that applications are now open for Discipleship Leaders for Collective 2026, happening August 2026! Collective 2026: (em)brace for Impact | The United Church of Canada is a powerful space where youth, young adults and leaders will come together to grow, learn, and encounter God in meaningful community. Discipleship Leaders will play a vital role in shaping that experience—guiding small groups and helping create an environment where faith can flourish.

If you have a heart for mentoring, serving, and walking alongside others in their spiritual journey, we would love for you to prayerfully consider applying.

Learn more and apply here: [Discipleship Groups — Collective 2026](#)

Please share this with anyone you believe would be a great fit!

Deadline to apply is January 15, 2026.

Bridges to Hope - Special Meeting of the Members on February 2, 2026: Bridges to Hope will hold a special meeting of the members to approve proposed changes to the bylaws on Monday, February 2, 2026. The brief meeting will take place at 5:30 pm via Zoom, and is open to members of the corporation, volunteers, clients, ministers of the member churches, and any and all interested parties. Only directors and identified voting delegates of member churches are entitled to vote on any motions. The proposed changes will be circulated in advance to those who have expressed interest in attending. If you plan to attend, please contact *Ken Peters*. His email address is kenpeters709@gmail.com

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.

Book Study: We live in challenging times, and many of us face fear and uncertainty. How do you cope? This Lent, we will begin a new book study on **“Conquering Fear: Living Boldly in an Uncertain World”** by Rabbi Harold Kushner. His stories and teachings offer practical ways to face fear and strengthen our spirits. To sign up, please contact Rev. Karen before January 19th. The book costs \$20, and lunch will be provided. We hope you will join us.

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.

COMING UP AT GOWER

Sunday Worship Services:

January 18: Second Sunday After Epiphany

Upcoming Weekly Activities:

January 11: Gower Learners Club – 11:00am

January 14: 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

Book STUDY

Join us for a book study on *Conquering Fear (Living Boldly in an Uncertain world)*

Starting During Lent

12:30 p.m.
Lunch included

Gower Street United Church
99 Queens Road

Harold S. Kushner

Bestselling Author of
When Bad Things Happen to Good People

Conquering Fear

Living Boldly in an Uncertain World

COPIES OF BOOK WILL BE ORDERED FOR \$20.00
PLEASE CONTACT REV. KAREN (REV.KAREN@NL.ROGERS.COM) TO ORDER A COPY .

PLEASE LET REV. KAREN KNOW YOUR INTEREST NO LATER THAN JANUARY 19 AND BRING YOUR \$20.00 TO THE CHURCH OFFICE TO ENSURE ENOUGH TIME TO HAVE THE COPIES ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME.

Gower Street United Church
Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Arms