

## January 18, 2026 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

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

**THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

**The Life and Work of Gower**

**Voluntary:** Adagio  
(2<sup>nd</sup> movement of Sonata No. 1)

Mendelssohn

**We sing:** VU 235 O Worship the King

Hanover

**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 in your life, 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 the Christ candle, a reminder of God's presence, warm our hearts with a sense of welcome and love, and inspire us in our journey as we go forward.

**Gathering Words:**

Why are we called to this place?

**To be God's people.**

What is required of us?

**To seek justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.**

And how shall we do this?

**With our prayers, our words and actions, and with our love.**

Then, as people who are both blessed and seeking to be blessings,

**Let us worship God!**

**Gathering Prayer:**

Gathered in worship, loving God, we offer up our prayers.

**In prayer, we open ourselves to your grace, your call,  
your wisdom, and your vision for us.**

Hear us, as we come to you. And help us to also listen for your Spirit.

**Wrap us in your care as we seek to draw closer.**

**Transform our needs - and our strengths- into something both useful and beautiful for your purposes. In Christ's name. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 626 I Heard the Voice of Jesus

Kingsfold

**A Moment for Affirm:** Pausing to mark Holocaust Memorial Day  
(*Gower Learners will then exit with Meghan McKibbon at this time*)

**LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**Prayer of Illumination:**

Rest on us lightly this day, dear God, like snow on a branch.

Settle into the cracked and gnarled places that surround  
our tender inner self with the wisdom of darkness  
and the wrinkles of light.

By your grace, help us to discover the wonder of how our story is  
held within your greater story, when our spirits and hearts are yoked with love and all creation.

Rest on us lightly this day, as we find ourselves part of the ancient mysteries of falling and melting into you. Amen.

**A reading from Scripture:** Isaiah 49:1-7  
“A light to the nations”

Shelley Abbott

**A reading from the Gospel:** John 1:29-42  
“What are you looking for?”

**Anthem:** Blessed Saviour, Thee I Love

Harlan

### **Meditation**

**We sing:** MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name Kelly

### **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](mailto: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 efforts to respond to Christ's call are lived out in our daily life, tossed into the mix with God's grace, promise, and vision.

As we offer our gifts, let us trust that they will be transformed and magnified into even greater gifts to bless this community and this world with love.

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

### **Offering Prayer:**

**Mysterious, Calling God, you reach out to us**

**as your beloved children and call us to use the gifts we have been given, for the good of others and as blessings 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. Amen.**

### **Prayers for our World and the Prayer of Jesus**

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

**We sing:** VU 586 We Shall Go Out with Hope and Resurrection  
Londonderry Air

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

Let us go from here, transformed by the gospel.

**We have found what we have been seeking.**

Yet it is not always what we thought it would be.

**We have found, and we have been found.**

There is always mystery, always more “a-ha’s”, as we follow in faith.

Let us seek to understand our faith more deeply

**so that our discipleship may continue to be transformed and renewed by God's grace. Amen.**

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

**Organ Postlude:** PSALM 19 (The Heavens Declare)

Marcello

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, 2025/2026, Year C and Celebrate God's Presence, a book of services.*

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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