

**January 25, 2026**  
**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

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.*



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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 to my **Friend who is an immigrant from Iran**. She and others from Iran are suffering great anxiety due to the many deaths in their country of origin. Praying for peace, justice and democracy for all countries in war and distress. We are all here to serve each other. From Diane Ryan (Peace)

The 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity worship service materials, under the sponsorship of the World Council of Churches, were prepared by the Armenian Apostolic Church, in partnership with the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches. The materials were edited for Canadian use, and local communities of faith were further invited to adapt, in keeping with their own expressions of worship.

We do so, with gratitude to our Armenian Christians, the World Council and Canadian Council of Churches. To quote:

**Unity is a divine mandate at the core of our Christian identity...  
Let us embrace this divine call to unity...  
In a world where the Body of Christ is wounded by division  
within and between traditions and confessions...  
the call to unity is addressed to each of us,  
not only as separate church communities,  
but as individuals within our communities.**

### **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

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

**Voluntary:** Chorale Prelude On a Melody by Orlando Gibbons

Willan

**We sing:** VU 679 Let There Be Light

Concord

#### **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.

#### **Light of Faith (Procession of Light):**

This Candle symbolizes that Jesus drew Light from God and calls us to "let our Light shine" so that we may be examples of lights of caring, serving, sharing, peace-seeking and justice-making in our faith communities, province, country and world. Our divisions are a 'grim disgrace'. Let us shine God's light into the divisions among us and be followers of Light.

#### **Gathering Words:**

Blessed is our God of Light, Holy and Loving,  
to whom Jesus taught us to pray.

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread**

**and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

#### **Gathering Prayer:**

God of Light and Love, dwell within us as we worship your holy name.

**May your life-giving radiance kindle within us a deeper love of unity towards one another.**

Like diverse flowers in a garden, may your divine brilliance cause us to bloom in harmony.

**As Jesus drew his Light from you, may we draw our light from Jesus' teachings as we worship you and seek to be followers of Light and Love in our divided, broken world. Amen**

**We sing:** VU 333 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrodol

**Exploring the Theme:** (The Golden Rule in various faith traditions)

**LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

Lloyd Gill

**God of Diversity; God of Unity. May we listen and hear your Word through the gifts of music, our “Song of Faith”, scripture and sermon. May we be ‘doers’ of your Word so that the grim disgrace of the divisions among us may cease for the sake of our Church and World. In the name of Jesus and all that is holy, we pray. Amen.**

**A reading from the Old Testament:** Isaiah 58:6-11

Lloyd Gill

**Choral Response:** VU 956 Your word is a lamp to my feet

Daley

**Responsive Reading:** A Song of Faith, Part V

Lloyd Gill

We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ presence in the world.

**We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place.**

Our ancestors in faith bequeath to us experiences of their faithful living:

**Upon their lives our lives are built.**

Our living of the gospel makes us part of the community of saints,

**Experiencing fulfillment in God’s reign, actively anticipating a new heaven and a new earth.**

The church has not always lived up to its vision.

**It requires the Spirit to reorient it, helping it to live an emerging faith while honoring tradition, challenging it to live by grace rather than entitlement, for we are called to be a blessing to the earth.**

We sing of God’s good news lived out, a church with purpose:

**Faith nurtured and hearts comforted; gifts shared for the good of all.**

Resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,

**Fierce love in the face of violence, human dignity defended, members of a community held and inspired by God.**

Corrected and comforted, instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ, creation’s mending.

**We sing of God’s mission.**

We are each given particular gifts of the Spirit. For the sake of the world, God calls all followers of Jesus to Christian ministry.

**In the church some are called to specific ministries of leadership, both lay and ordered; some witness to the good news; some uphold the art of worship.**

Some comfort the grieving and guide the wandering.

**Some build up the community of wisdom.**

Some stand with the oppressed and work for justice

**To embody God’s love in the world, the work of the church requires the ministry and discipleship of all believers.**

**A Reading from** John 17: 6, 15, 20-23

**Anthem:** Here I Am, Lord

Schutte

**Meditation:** Unity...For the Sake of the World, God calls us.

The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

**We sing:** Spirit of Life, come unto me  
(Please remain seated while singing)

Spirit of Life

**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](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:**

Our call is to respond to Christ's Call is lived out through our gifts of time, action and money. As we offer our gifts, let us trust that they will be transformed and magnified into even greater gifts for the well-being of our church, community and world with love and justice.

**We sing:** VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

**Offering Prayer:**

**Generous God, we give because of your goodness and love for us. Through our gifts, we seek to be as 'light' and 'lights' for the sake of our church and, through Mission and Service, for the sake of the world you call us to love. May divisions cease among us; may your unity of love and justice reign, in our claim to be followers of Jesus' teaching. Amen.**

**Prayers for the World (VU525):**

**Eternal God,  
whose image lies in the hearts of all people,  
We live among people  
whose languages are different from our own,  
whose faiths are foreign to us,  
whose ways we fail to understand.  
Help us to remember  
that you embrace all people with your love,  
that all religion is a response to you,  
that the yearnings of other hearts  
are much like our own and are known to you.  
Help us to recognize you  
in words of truth, things of beauty,  
and actions of love about us.  
We pray in the name of the One who calls us  
to be neighbour and friend. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung) VU 960

Chant by R. Langdon

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 313 God, Whose Almighty Word  
**Commissioning and Benediction**

Moscow

**Choral Benediction:** VU 966 Threefold Amen  
**Postlude:** The Prince of Denmark's March

Danish  
Clarke

*Worship today was inspired by the World Council of Churches Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 worship service.*

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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 Parry  
**Organist & Music Ministry:** R. Carl Goulding  
**Custodian:** David Noseworthy  
**Board Chair:** Jonathan Stevenson

## WHAT'S UP AT GOWER

### COMING UP AT GOWER

#### **Sunday Worship Services:**

**January 25:** Third Sunday After Epiphany

**February 1:** Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

#### **Upcoming Weekly Activities:**

**January 25:** Gower Learners Club – 11:00am

**January 28:** Gower Youth Group Meeting - 4:30pm

**Congratulations:** We extend congratulations to Margaret Tibbo on being appointed for Sports/Recreation/Fitness in the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador. An investiture ceremony is to be held on January 27, 2026 at the Government house.

**Cowan Heights United Church:** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 – Join us at Cowan Heights United Church (141 Frecker Drive, St. John's) on Sunday, January 25 at 2:00 p.m. for our Annual Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, sponsored by the St. John's Area Council of Churches. The theme for the service this year is 'Light from Light for Light.' We hope you can join us as we gather with our siblings and friends to celebrate our shared unity in Christ. A reception and time of fellowship will follow. We hope you can join us!

**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.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### **Memorials**

# To the Glory of God

Donations to the  
Operating Fund in memory of  
**Edward Roberts**  
from Eve Roberts,

Donations to the  
Operating, M&S, Cemetery  
fund in memory of **Lorraine  
Moores**  
from Ed and Sharon Moores,  
Jonathan and Elaine Moores,  
Family, Lisa Moore Murphy,  
Heather Sharpe, Garry Moore.

Donations to the  
Operating Fund in memory of  
**father Albert** from Richard  
Spurrell.

Donations to the  
Operating Fund in memory of  
**Garry Moore** from Roberts  
Lane.

Donations to the  
Heritage Fund from Gerry  
Stone.