

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.



99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145
E-Mail: 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.**

Today's bulletin is dedicated in memory Of **Rudy Laite**
from Cheryl & Ken Hanlon and Family

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary:

We sing: VU 64 O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

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.

Gathering Words:

Every year, into our shadowed world,

a light is born.

Every year, into our complicated lives,

hope is born.

Every year,

the Christ child comes to the world.

Every year, and this year,

we celebrate in hope, in gratitude, and in joy.

Gathering Prayer:

We come before you with thankful hearts, loving God, for the gifts, the turkey, and the family gatherings that have happened.

We come before you with thankfulness, for we realize how wonderfully you have blessed us as a faith community through the past year.

We come before you with a new vision of our neighbourhood and our world, Compassionate God, for there are deep needs that this Christmas season has brought home to us.

We come before you with awe, Revealing God, for in the stories of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, we are aware that your love for us and our world goes beyond all limits. Amen.

We sing: VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter

Cranham

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

O God, help us to sense your message as we receive the words of scripture. Help us to carry your love and guidance forward with us throughout our daily life. Amen.

A reading from Scripture: Psalm 147:12-20 (vu pp.868-869, part two)
God sends God's word to earth.

A reading from the Gospels: John 1: (1-9), 10-18
The Word became flesh; we have seen his glory.

Meditation

Music Reflection: Greensleeves

arr. Vaughan Williams

We sing: VU 44 It Came upon the Midnight Clear Carol

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



Gathering our Gifts:

God of light, in this holy season you have given us the greatest gift of all—your gift of Jesus.

As we gather our gifts today, we offer not only what we have, but who we are: our gratitude, our hopes, and our willingness to share your love.

May these gifts reflect the light of Jesus in our church, our community and in our world through the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

We give with thankful hearts.

We sing: VU 75, vs.6

Winchester Old

Offering Prayer:

God, you have blessed us beyond imagining, blessed us in the wonder of creation, blessed us with friendships, blessed us with talents and abilities, and blessed us with the gift of a chosen child to Mary.

And because you have blessed us, we gladly return these gifts for use as we serve you. We believe that they will go to work for good through our church and in faith communities far from here.

As you have blessed us, so we believe you will bless all who will receive the gifts we offer this Christmastime with hope, joy, peace, and love. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

**Our Parent in Heaven, whose love knows no bounds,
Your name is Holy, held in the highest regard.
May Your realm of love, acceptance, and justice come,
May Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,
Guiding us to honour each other's dignity and worth.
Give us today our daily bread, the sustenance we need,
And forgive us our prejudices as we forgive those who are prejudiced against us, lead us away from judgment and deliver us from the hands of hatred. For Yours is the realm of unconditional love, the power to change hearts, And the glory of diversity in unity, now and forever. May all of us, created beautifully and wonderfully in Your image, Live and love in the spirit of Your Son, who taught us to pray, embracing each other, as You embrace us all. Amen.**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 59 Joy to the World

Antioch

We go out into the world:

Go and share.

We go to stop accumulating stuff, choosing to build relationships in Jesus' name.

Go and listen.

We go to listen to God's voice in each other, building bridges of grace-filled understanding.

Go and act.

We go to follow the Spirit's challenge and leading, finding the path of communion and of community in this New Year ahead of us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

We sing: VU 68 All Poor Ones and Humble

Olwen

Postlude:

Worship today was inspired by Gathering,

All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-742130 or CCLI Copyright License: 3157095 & Streaming License: 21279189. No portion of services may be recorded or distributed without explicit permission from Gower Street United Church.

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

Sunday Worship Services:

January 4: Second Sunday after Christmas

January 11: Epiphany Sunday Service

Upcoming Weekly Activities:

January 7 Time of worship at Tiffany Towers with Rev. Karen at 3pm

January 11 Gower Learners Club – 11:00am

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.

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

To The Glory of God

Donations to the Operating Fund

In remembrance of loved ones including parents, **Shirley and Anderson Abbott, brother, Glenn Abbott, and aunt, Marion Abbott** from Dana, Gerard, Hayley and Noah Collins.

In loving memory of parents, **Shirley and Anderson Abbott, brother, Glenn Abbott, and aunt, Marion Abbott** for music related initiatives from Marilyn & Randy Folkes and family.

In memory of **Rudy Laite**
from Cheryl and Ken Hanlon and Family.

In loving memory of **Edna Green** from nephew David Green.

In loving memory of **Thomas, Jean, and Hunter Stentaford** from Karen Misik.

In loving memory of **Florence** and **Donald Butler** from Donna Butler.

In loving memory of **Verne Somers** from Judi, David, Rob and Kirsten.

In loving memory of **Marston & Elizabeth Cameron** from Louise & Bob, Jennifer, Florence & Louisa, Stephen, Kaleigh, Jacob & Thalia and Charminne Tipple.

In loving memory of **Loved Ones** from Bruce & Linda Nickerson

Donations to the Roof and Restoration Fund

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

In loving memory of **my parents, Mark & Alma Badcock, Jean Taylor & Emma Wells, and Buck Clarence Taylor** from Susan Hibbs (Badcock).

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

Donations to the Mission & Service Fund

In memory of **Elizabeth and Marston Cameron** by Robert and Marilyn Cameron; Laura, Blair, Emma and Lucy Bridger; Scott, Claire and Jon Cameron; Lisa Moore; Matthew, Thea, Georgia, Margot and Alexander Cameron; Andrew, Lana, Grace and Kate Cameron; Jane, Russell, Mckenna, Anya and Callum Noseworthy

In loving memory of **Peggy & Clive Snelgrove** from Judi & Family

Donations to the Benevolent Fund

In loving memory of **Jonathan Anstey** from Angeline, Carolyn Moore, David Anstey & Families.

In memory of **Elizabeth and Marston Cameron** by Robert and Marilyn Cameron; Laura, Blair, Emma and Lucy Bridger; Scott, Claire and Jon Cameron; Lisa Moore; Matthew, Thea, Georgia, Margot and Alexander Cameron; Andrew, Lana, Grace and Kate Cameron; Jane, Russell, Mckenna, Anya and Callum Noseworthy.

In loving memory of **Loved Ones** from Bruce & Linda Nickerson

In loving memory of parents **Auburn & Gertie Lethbridge** from Carrie Lethbridge

Donations to the Warm and Dry Fund

In loving memory of **John G Evans** from Howard Evans

Donations to the Gower Community Band

In loving memory of our **parents, Marston and Elizabeth Cameron and Dennis and Margaret Murphy, and loved ones** from Blair and Anita Cameron.

