

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.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Meditation on "Thaxted"

O Canada

We sing: VU 632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

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:

As Canada begins another year, we come with praise and thanksgiving **for the beauty and bounty of this land and the diversity of its people.**

We come too with concern, and a desire for hope

that the environment will be protected, that truth and reconciliation will be advanced, and that all people will live in harmony.

Gathering Prayer:

O Wondrous Creator, we come before you this day to delight in the marvels of your creation in this country we call Canada.

We come, open and attentive, to marvel at the dazzling sunsets and majestic mountains.

We come with open spirits to feel the melodies of the birds and the roaring of turbulent seas.

We come with open senses to luxuriate in the fragrance of spring flowers.

We pause and rejoice at your creative labours and treasure our Sabbath rest:

(Silent Pause)

We come, knowing that not everyone in this country has access or opportunity to delight in the gifts of your creation, knowing that your creation in many places is suffering.

And so, as we worship and savor the wonders, we also commit to caring for creation, seeking access and opportunity for all. Amen.

We sing: VU 678 For the Healing of the Nations

Westminster Abbey

Last Post

The following members of the Gower Street Methodist Church lost their lives on July 01, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. All but Captain Bernard P. Ayre, who was a member of the Norfolk Regiment, were members of the Newfoundland Regiment who were killed in the fighting at Beaumont Hamel.

Captain Eric S. Ayre

2nd Lieutenant Gerald W. Ayre

Lieutenant Hubert Clinton Herder

Private Robert Meadus

Private Alfred P. Taylor

Captain Bernard P. Ayre

Private Harry Butler

Private William E. LeShana

Private William G. Perran

Moment of Silence

Rouse

Prayer of Transformation:

As proud as we are of our country, God, we know it could be better.

We know we could be better.

We know that there could be reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of Canada and better relationships among those of all faiths.

We need your compassion in our communities and in our country.

We need your imagination, your vision of a country and a world transformed.

Instead, we have made idols for ourselves of culture, race, status, and material wealth. We have made gods that are no gods.

Forgive us, Spirit of justice and true peace.

Reconcile, restore, redeem us, Merciful One.

Turn us to the unconditional love of Jesus and give us your grace, we pray. **Amen.**

We are forgiven:

God invites us to let go, **to release our fears and our failures, our deepest loves and our greatest joys, into the infinite ocean of God's mercy. Amen.**

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A reading from the scripture: Matthew 22:34-46

We sing: VU 684 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Channel of Peace

Meditation

Musical Meditation Largo (from) Xerxes

Handel

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:

Creative and renewing God, we give thanks to you for the blessings we enjoy in this country: the diverse beauty of each province, from lakes to prairies, from mountains to coasts; the resources and opportunities to learn and grow and leave our mark; and the freedom to live and love, being true to ourselves.

We sing: MV 191 What Can I Do?

Offering Prayer:

Bless these offerings as you have blessed our lives. Inspire us to discover beauty in those who hold approaches different from our own, to create opportunities for diversity to surprise and to flourish, and to share the abundance of your love, without limit or restriction. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 481 Sent Forth by God's Blessing.

The Ash Grove

We go out into the world:

And now, touched by God's Spirit, **which makes us free,**
held in God's love, **which gives us strength,**
befriended by God's son, Jesus, **who breaks down walls,**

let us live with hearts wide open to all the adventure,
all the pain, all the joy, of being God's people,
in every place life calls us to be. Amen.

God Save The King

God save our gracious King
Long live our noble King,
God save The King:
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save The King.

Ode to Newfoundland

When sunrays crown thy pine-clad hills
And Summer spreads her hand
When silvern voices tune thy rills
We love thee smiling land
We love thee, we love thee,
We love thee smiling land.

As loved our fathers, so we love
Where once they stood we stand
Their prayer we raise to heav'n above
God guard thee Newfoundland
God guard thee, God guard thee
God guard thee Newfoundland.

Postlude: Trumpet Voluntary in E-Flat
(Homage to the 18th century)

David Johnson

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2025, 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

FESTIVAL500 Growing The Voices: Like last year, Growing The Voices is having a CANADA DAY Singalong On WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 at THE ROOMS, at three pm.

We will all get together and sing favourite songs that have been composed and/or or sung by well known Canadians ... we are even going to do a special song for KIDS (of all ages!!)

So bring your lawn chairs, your friends and families and your sun screen and be prepared to SING ALONG with Julia Halfyard, Phil Roberts and me, Doug Dunsmore.

PS: If it is sunny, we are on the lawn ... if it is raining ... we will be INSIDE the ROOMS ... so don't miss it!!!

COMING UP AT GOWER

Sunday Worship Services:

July 5: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost—10:00am

Upcoming Weekly Activities:

Open Doors: We are excited to once again this summer offer everyone various opportunities to tour our beautiful sanctuary with knowledgeable tour guides. This program was funded by "The Convening Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation." We are grateful to The United Church of Canada Foundation for their continued support.

The schedule of when our building will have its doors open is here:

Everyday from 29th June to the last day of August from 10am – 4pm

(exception of wedding and other event days)

In additional days for "Open Doors" (Sanctuary):

Every Saturday from 4 July to August 29 (same times)

Sunday, 30 August 2026	12:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Monday, 31 August 2026	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Wednesday, 2 September 2026	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Thursday, 3 September 2026	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Monday, 7 September 2026	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Tuesday, 8 September 2026	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Tuesday, 15 September 2026	10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Saturday, 19 September 2026	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Tuesday, 22 September 2026	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Wednesday, 30 September 2026	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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

A Litany of Reflection

O Canada! Our home and native land!
Indigenous land, respected and valued.
True patriot love in all of us command.
True compassionate love, in all of us by God's hand.
With glowing hearts, we see thee rise,
With aching hearts, we realize,
the True North strong and free!
was bought with many others' blood and tears.
From far and wide, O Canada,
People came to colonize.
we stand on guard for thee.
But liberty has not always been shared.
God keep our land glorious and free!
May the promise of Canada continue to be:
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
A land of unity, hopes, dreams, and diversity.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
May this be our legacy, by the grace of God.

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