

**March 8, 2026**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**  
**International Women's Day**

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 loving memory of our Dad & Poppy, **Stanley Noftall** who passed away on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1982. Our Dad was a long-time member of Gower.

Forever in our hearts from Brenda Martin & Russell, Sean & Nicole Vardy & the Noftall family.

...

In Celebration of **International Women's Day**, March 8<sup>th</sup>; in grateful memory of all of the faithful women of Gower, the "Mary's" and the "Martha's" and of the first woman Moderator of The United Church of Canada, The Very Rev. Dr., the Honorable Lois M Wilson (1927 – 2024). In Celebration of all of the present women of Gower, including our Ministers, The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald (Lead) and The Rev. Karen Thorne (Minister of Pastoral Care; Children, Youth and Families), by Marion Pardy (Very Rev. Dr.)

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

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

**Voluntary** : Sicilienne

Maria Theresia Von Paradis

**We sing**: VU 218. We Praise you, O God

Kremser

Words: Julia Cory

#### **Words of Welcome:**

In Jesus' name, welcome!

First-time participant or one who's been here many days;  
child or elder or somewhere in-between;  
stewards, caretakers, disciples of Jesus, children of God—  
neighbors all, loved and loving.

Welcome. Welcome in Jesus' name!

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.

#### **A Time of Silent Reflection**

#### **Gathering Words:**

Blessed and blessing,  
loving and loved,  
God's people of Gower Street United Church,  
come to this place!

#### **We are ready!**

From times of work,  
from times of play,  
from times of busy-ness,  
from times away,  
God's people of Gower Street United Church, come!

#### **We are set!**

To speak and to receive,  
to sing and to pray.  
God's people of Gower Street United Church, come!

#### **We are here!**

**We are here!**

**We are here to worship God!**

**Gathering Prayer:**

God of the smooth road,  
God of the rough places,  
God of the wilderness paths, thank you.

**Thank you for calling us out  
when we want to wrap ourselves up and hide.  
Thank you for giving us safe space  
when everything is just too much.**

Thank you for blessing all creation with your presence,  
and with your love.

**Open our hearts, we pray—open our minds—  
open our souls and, by your grace,  
fill them with your abundant love;  
not only so that we would be changed,  
not only so that we would be blessed,  
but so that we can be blessing  
and people of transformation,  
in your world.**

**In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.**

**Call to the Light**

Elsie Doyle

There is so much during the day that clamors for our attention. Friends, family, work, classes, household tasks.

**And the noise! We are bombarded with sound, from the clock that awakens us to the telephone, the radio,  
the television, the conversation that we have or overhear.**

Where is the time and place to listen for the still, small voice of God?

**Sometimes it seems that God would have to speak in a whirlwind to be heard above the clamor!**

Listen now.

**There is a place of quiet rest, and it is the place where God dwells within you.**

Close your eyes.

Be aware of that place.

In Lent we journey to the parts of ourselves known only to God, beneath the clamor, the place of silent rest and bountiful love.

(Silent Pause)

**Let the story of Jesus reach us there.  
Let it teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.**

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of violence in the world and to the Earth.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Moment of Silence

**Let us pray:**

**Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you yet continue to search until  
they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 635 All the Way My Saviours Leads Me

All the Way

**Words:** Fanny Crosby

**We celebrate birthdays**

**Exploring Lent**

## LISTENING TO THE STORY

**A reading from the Gospel:** John 4:5-42  
Jesus and the Samaritan Women

**Response:** VU 956 Your Word is a Lamp

Eleanor Daley

**Anthem:** Lord For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

Farrant

### **Meditation**

**We sing:** VU 371 Open My Eyes, That I May See  
**Words and Music**

Open My Eyes  
Clara Scott

## 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.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:**

The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year, as a time for us to remember Jesus' journey.

**On that journey he met many people.**

**In that meeting, they were blessed.**

**In that blessing, many of them were changed.**

**In that change, many of them shared what they had experienced.**

**In that sharing, they changed the world.**

We are disciples of Jesus, blessed by his teaching  
and blessed by his love.

**So, let us share who we are and what we have,  
that, in that sharing, we would be part  
of blessing God's world.**

**We sing:** MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky (Chorus only)  
**Words and Music:** Pat Mayberry

### **Offering Prayer:**

**God of all creation, we know that all that we have,  
all that we are, is blessed and blessing.**

**In this sharing, we add our blessing to yours.**

**May all these blessings bring hope  
and healing to your world. Amen.**

### **Prayers for the world and the Prayer of Jesus**

Let us give thanks:

**We give you thanks, Generous God.**

## WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

**We sing:** MV 157 I Am a Child of God

Cheryl Harding

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

Blessed and blessing, loving and loved,  
God's people of Gower Street United Church, go from this place!

**We are ready!**

To times of work, to times of play,

to times of busy-ness, to times away,  
God's people of Gower Street United Church, go to the world!

**We are set!**

To speak and to listen, to sing and to pray,  
to be a blessing, each and every day.  
God's people of Gower Street United Church,  
be stewards of the earth and share your faith,  
be Jesus' people on the Way.

**We go, knowing we are never alone!**

**Carried by the wings of God's gentle and loving Spirit,  
moving forward with the peace of Jesus, we go!  
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

**We sing:** VU 967 Threefold Amen

Danish

**Postlude:** Voluntary in A Minor

Anonymous

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent/Easter 2026, Year A.*

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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

**Annual Meeting Sunday is March 22.** Worship begins at 11 am and will conclude by 11:30. We will move downstairs for a light lunch as we gather for our annual congregational meeting. The Strategic Planning Committee will share with us their findings as well. Please make every effort to attend this important gathering in the life and work of our faith community.

**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.

**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](mailto:gsuc@nl.rogers.com)) or phone 709-753-7286 ext. 200

## **COMING UP AT GOWER**

### **Sunday Worship Services:**

March 8: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent/ Int. Women's Day

March 15: Fourth Sunday of Lent

### **Upcoming Weekly Activities:**

March 8: Gower Learners Club – 11:00am

March 11: Gower Youth Group Meeting - 4:30pm

### **Staff Hours:**

**Rev. Pamela:** Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Days off are Friday and Saturday. If you wish to schedule an appointment, please email or call the church office.

**Rev. Karen:** Office hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. If you wish to schedule an appointment, please email or call the church office.

**Office Administrator (Felyn):** Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am to 4:00 pm, Fridays 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**David Noseworthy:** Mondays to Thursdays 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sundays 8:00 am to 1:30 pm.