

May 10, 2026
6th Sunday of Easter
Christian Family Sunday

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 **Rev. Ralph Moores** from wife Shirley and family.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: VU 395 Come in, Come in and Sit Down

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.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

We light this candle to remind us:

Jesus is with us - in our homes, in our church, in our hearts.

Gathering Words:

Come in, come in and sit down!

We are a part of God's family.

We are here to find community.

We are a part of God's family.

We are here to sing songs of praise.

We are a part of God's family.

We are here to bring our children to worship.

We are a part of God's family.

We are here to listen to the stories of God's love.

We are a part of God's family.

We are here to learn stories of Jesus.

We are a part of God's family.

We are here to explore our faith.

We are a part of God's family.

We are here to make music and have fun!

We are a part of God's family.

We are here for so many reasons they cannot be counted.

Welcome, whatever has brought you here.

We are a part of God's family.

Gathering Prayer:

God, we give thanks for all the people who care for us — Parents and grandparents, Aunts and uncles, Teachers, mentors, neighbors, and friends. God of family and love:

We belong to you!

Thank you for Ruth and Naomi, for people who stick together, and for new beginnings. God of family and love:

We belong to you!

Help us be your family — Kind and loyal, Welcoming and brave, Loving one another like Jesus did. God of family and love:

We belong to you! Amen.

We sing: MV 92 Like a Rock

We celebrate birthdays

We sing: VU 585 Jesus Bids Us Shine

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination:

Loving God, You speak to us through the stories of long ago and through the voices of those around us today. As we listen to your Word, open our hearts to hear your love, open our minds to learn your truth, and open our lives to follow your way. **Whether we are young or old, on our own or surrounded by family, help us remember we all belong in your family. Amen**

We sing: Psalm 100 Make a Joyful Noise

A reading from the Gospel: John 15:5, 9-12
I am the Vine

A Story of Love: "The Invisible Thread" by Patrice Karst

Anthem

Exploring: Gower Learners and the "I Am" Sayings

A Responsive Prayer for All Ages:

One: Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life."

Thank you, God, for giving us the energy and ideas to help the world.

One: I am one person. I am human. It may not seem like what I do can make a difference.

But together we are many. May we each go out and use that energy to make a difference, no matter how small.

Two: Jesus said, "I am the Door."

Thank you for being the door that is never locked, the door that is always safe to enter and to new experiences to learn and grow.

Three: I am one person. I am human. It may not seem like what I do can make a difference.

But together we are many. May we find peace and love in those we meet and share that love right back to others.

Four: Jesus said, "I am Light for the World."

Thank you for the love that is like bright light. It gives us energy to grow strong hearts that we can use to make the world a better place.

Thank you for showing us how to live with honesty and kindness. You help us especially when we feel alone or lost. Thank you for being our guide.

Five: I am one person. I am human. It may not seem like what I do can make a difference.

But together we are many. May we follow your ways and make choices that build each other up. May we tend to one another and our community with the love and kindness you have shown us, sharing your love with the world around us.

Six: Jesus said, "I am the Vine."

Thank you for reminding us that just as a gardener watches over and cares for their plants, God also cares for us. A vine lives because it gets water and life through the branch. We too receive life and strength when we stay connected to you.

Seven: Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

Thank you for reminding us that life is a great mystery. Death is part of life. But God is greater than even death.

May we be reminded that your love never dies. May we share that message of hope with others as we make choices that give life and build people up. Amen.

We pray together the Prayer of Jesus

We sing: MV 30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

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 plates offering 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.



Mission and Service Story:

Gathering our Gifts

We sing: MV 191 What can I do

Offering Prayer:

Here we are, God, as your family, as people who love Jesus, as those who are woven together as one by the Spirit's power. Take what we offer: our hearts, our living, our time, our talent, and our treasure. May you so bless what we give that we become transformed for love— a love that fosters good news for the broader fabric of this world.

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: MV 156 Dance with the Spirit

We go out into the world:

Let's bless one another with this prayer and our hands:

May God's love surround you (**arms around shoulders**)

May God's peace fill you (**hands on heart**)

And may God's family walk with you, every step of the way. Amen!

We sing: MV 104 Know that God is good

Postlude

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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

CARING for the EARTH – by RECYCLING!™: Do you currently recycle your beverage bottles and cans? If not, now would be a great time to start as part of caring for the earth in the coming year!

Gather those bottles and cans - don't throw them in the garbage! - and bring them to Evergreen Recycling on Blackmarsh Road.

Gower has an account with them. Recently we retrieved the refunds donated to Gower and received over \$300. for the church! Thank you to those who already are recycling and donating your refunds! To donate the proceeds of your recycling to Gower you simply need to bring your recyclables to them, and give them the account number, which is the church phone number (7537286)

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) or phone 709-753-7286 ext. 200

To the Glory of God

Donations to the
Operating Fund
in loving memory of
Hannah Ford, for Mother's
Day
from daughters Jean and
Augusta.



CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY



*Happy
Mother's Day*

