November 8th, 2026
24th Sunday After Pentecost
Remembrance 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. 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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Leading: Rev. Karen Thorne and Mr. Jonathan Stevenson
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
"REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY", "LEST WE FORGET".

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Elegy Thalben-Ball — Prelude on Thaxed

We sing: VU 806 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.

Light of Faith:
We gather in the light of Christ to understand more clearly the sacrifices that war has required, to honour those who have made them, and to pray for a time when such sacrifices will never be required again.
Our candles today are lit as signs of our prayers for the end of war
and conflict, and for a just peace for all. They are also a visible reminder of God's presence with us to help us, to shine a path forward.

Gathering Words:
On Remembrance Sunday, we give thanks for those women and men who have made sacrifices in pursuit of justice.
Soldiers, pilots, sailors, marines.
We honour the sacrifices made in pursuit of peace.
Nurses, ambulance drivers, doctors, chaplains.
We affirm the sacrifices made in pursuit of freedom.
Parents, spouses, partners, children.
We lament that these sacrifices were necessary.
We renew our calling to strive for peace and justice,
freedom and truth.
We celebrate life reclaimed from war.
We proclaim abundant life, in Jesus Christ.
Let us worship together and remember together,
knowing that, in God's heart, their sacrifice is never forgotten.

Gathering Prayer:
Source of Life, we are grateful for your faithfulness,
for your abiding love, and for the inspiration of the Spirit.
Even when we slip and fall, you tenderly pick us up
and whisper in our ear, "Keep going."
We are your beloved. May we reflect your love to the world.
May you give us strength when we are weary
and hope when we despair.
Give us courage when we are afraid,
and perseverance when we want to give up.
Guide us in our journey through this world you love so much.
May we be like billions of candles lighting up the world
with your compassion, forgiveness,
justice, wisdom, and peace.
May it be so!

Amen!

(please stand as you are able)

Last Post Trumpet: Elliott Morrison

Moment of Silence

Reveille/Rouse

Gower Remembers

Act of Remembrance Malcolm Snow

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.
We will remember them.
(An excerpt from "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon)

Laying of the Wreath Malcolm Snow

Young people are invited to Gower Learners.

We sing: VU 526 Weep for the Dead (vs. 1,2,3,5) Harris

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination: Allison Fizzard
Open our hearts and our spirits, God of Joshua and Miriam.
to hear your message within the words of the scriptures.
May the words spoken and shared
help us all to remember your way
and to experience your call to us.
Give us strength to follow in your path. Amen.

A reading from Gospel of John: 15:12-17 Allison Fizzard
"No one has a greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends"

Anthem: Pie Jesu (from Requiem) Webber

Meditation Jonathan Stevenson

We sing: VU 372 Though I May Speak O Waly Waly

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:
(Children will return to the sanctuary around this time to place decorated peace cranes on the tree as prayers for peace for the world.)

We sing: VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Old 100th

Offering Prayer: We offer our gifts today with prayers for peace, especially in the lives of the world's children. Bring them the peace of a secure and loving home, where their needs can be met and their best dreams for the future become a reality. Amen.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 659 Eternal Father, Strong to Save Melita

We go out into the world:
When bombs fall and missiles and drones strike,
we will pray- and work- for peace.
When voices are raised in anger,
we will pray - and work- for peace.
When fists fly and guns are discharged,
we will pray - and work- for peace.
May there be peace on earth
and in all our lives.
May we go forth in peace,
knowing that the God of compassion and peace
goes with us, now and always. Amen.

O Canada
O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

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: Nimrod (from enigma Variations) Elgar

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2026, Year A.

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Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald (on leave)
Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter (on leave)
Interim Youth and 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

Do you know the story of Sadako and the Paper Cranes?

Sadako Sasaki was a child in Japan during the second World War.
Following the end of the war she became very ill because of the radiation caused by the bombing of Hiroshima. Her friend suggested she fold origami cranes while in hospital receiving medical care.

There was a Japanese legend that your wish will be fulfilled if you fold one thousand cranes. Sadako set out to fold one thousand origami cranes in the hope that she would live and fulfil her dream to survive and be on the running team.

Many cranes were folded by her, her family and friends. When she died, her family placed the cranes in the casket with Sadako.
Today we remember Sadako and the suffering of many persons - children as well as adults – because of war. We fold and hang paper cranes, along with doves hung as also symbols of peace, in hopes and prayers for the end of suffering caused by war.

What's Up At Gower

Preparing for our Congregational Christmas Dinner: Save the Date!! **Saturday 7th November, 10am**. We will be preparing Christmas puddings for the **Gower Congregational Christmas Dinner on December 15th.** We welcome children to help, same as last year! We will have parchment that needs some cutting, flour that needs measuring, tins that will need to be filled with batter, and more! Rev. Karen will also be there with some additional craft activities. Please bring an apron, since the stirring can be messy... Please contact Tony Chadwick so that we can prepare for numbers; we will have juice and snacks for the children, coffee for the adults. And seasonal music!
anthonychadant5@gmail.com 709 687- 8410

The next GSSC Dinner meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 10. The details are:

- **Time:** 6 pm
- **Menu**: Spinach salad, cottage pie (like Sheppard's pie, but made with ground beef), followed by dessert and tea/coffee.
- **Guest Speaker:** Lesley Burgess, Executive Director of Bridges to Hope Food Bank
- **Cost:** $20
- ***Special November Request:*** *As this is our last GSSC dinner for 2026, and in light of our speaker, we kindly ask all attendees to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Bridge to Hope.*

***NEW* Event Volunteer Request**: In your attendance response, please indicate if you are able to assist with any of the following roles:

a) Morning helper (9:30 am)
b) Afternoon helper (4:30 pm)
c) Meal helper (5:45 and throughout evening)
Please let Bert Riggs briggs@mun.ca know by Sunday, November 8 if you are attending.

2026 Gower Online Auction : How you can help make it a success! : We are seeking your help in obtaining donations of items and in particular items exceeding $100 in value for this year's online Auction. We will be providing a tax-deductible receipt for all items exceeding this amount, so please be our ambassador in soliciting donations from business or individuals who can provide such items. Gift certificates are particularly popular so please reach out to any business contacts you may have. An official letter that you can provide any potential donors can be found at this link (insert link) or picked up at the Church. Please bring items to the Church Office on **November 12 to 14 or 17 and 18 between 10:00am and 4:00pm**.

The Auction, which will be found at www.bartlettauctions.com, will open at noon on **Sunday, November 22 and close the following Sunday, November 30 at 7:00pm**! We look forward to your support and if you have any questions please contact either Bert Riggs at briggs@mun.ca, Lorne LeDrew at lorneledrew@hotmail.com or Pat Griffin at (stewardship@gowerunited.com).

YOUTH GROUP CO-LEADERS and HELPERS: We are needing some extra persons - at least one! - to work with the Youth along with Rev. Karen and to help with some of the related tasks i.e. preparing food or picking up pizza. Can you help? Young adults would be great, or older adults with appreciation and interest in our young people would be fine too! Please e-mail or speak to Rev. Karen about the possibilities!

REFRIDGERATOR NEEDED for FFED and More!*: Do you have a full -size functioning fridge that you no longer use or need?* We are getting closer to completing the makeover of the council room into a multifunctional place of hospitality and welcome for the Families Faith Everyday Program and more, , but we still are needing a fridge. Maybe you have just what we need and could bless our church in this way. Please be in touch with Rev. Karen or Grace Dunsmore of the Children, Education and Families Committee.

