

August 17, 2025 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

We sing: VU 313 God, Whose Almighty Word Moscow

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 lit this candle as a sign of the Spirit at work in the world.

Here, it is a strengthening light in the neighbourhood.

Gathering Words:

Come, people of God, come. Come with open hearts, minds, and souls.

Come with curiosity and questions. Come with your doubts and your surety.

Come, meet the God who has loved us from the beginning.

Come, let us worship!

Gathering Prayer:

God of the ages, we come here as we have so often, as generations before have done. We come to offer prayers and praise. We seek your presence and your wisdom. The times in which we live are confusing, and there seem to be more changes than we can manage. Root us in your love and ground us in our purpose. Help us to trust in you, even when we feel as if the journey is too costly. Help us to align our purpose with the one who tried to inspire a way for people to understand the life of faithfulness. Amen.

We sing: VU 561 Take Up Your Cross Hesperus

Prayer of Confession:

We draw near to you, Gracious God, and yearn for more and better ways to sing your praise.

For you restore health and courage and life itself.

Help us to proclaim the honours of your name. And when the fear is too much,

and our praises grow faint or stop altogether,

when we cease to care for your creation and your creatures,

forgive us.

Restore our spirits

and grant us new joy, new power, new love, we pray.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance:

As followers of Jesus, we are a people who celebrate our ability to be forgiven when we've done wrong. We may find it hard to release our guilt, but God declares our forgiveness and wants us to learn from our mistakes and move forward. God's grace is overflowing. Yet, once God has forgiven us, we may still find that we need to forgive ourselves. But this too is possible! **Thanks be to God!**

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A reading from Scripture: Isaiah 5: 1-7 JoAnna Bennett
The unfruitful vineyard will be purged.

A reading from the Gospel: Luke 12: 51-56
Jesus comes to bring division within households.

We sing: VU 663 My Faith Looks Up to Thee Olivet

Meditation

Musical Reflection

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:

The needs are great and the resources seem to be few—
yet, God's grace can and does multiply our effort so that the gift meets the need.

We sing: MV 191 What Can I Do?

Offering Prayer:

Let us pray, **in this time of uncertainty, that God be with us as a comfort and prompt us to be of comfort to others. We ask for your blessing on these gifts and on the large and small gifts of caring we share with others in the days and weeks ahead. Amen.**

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 589 Lord, Speak to Me Winscott

We go out into the world:

As we enter a new week, may you be assured that God goes with you. May the power and the presence of God—our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer—energize you and strengthen you for all that is ahead. **Amen.**

We sing: MV 154 Deep i Our Hearts (v.1) Freed

Postlude

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
Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy
Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding
Custodian: David Noseworthy
Board Chair: Patrick Griffin