

August 3, 2025 Eighth 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. 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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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 342 You Servants of God Lyons

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:

Let this burning candle be a reminder of God's covenant of love with humanity.

We welcome the light as a testimony to our commitment to seek God by worshipping together in community.

God's love knows no bounds. Jesus commits to being present with us. Spirit makes herself at home amid our collective struggles.

May this light bring us encouragement and comfort today

Gathering Words:

Our Creator abides as close as our breath and as far as the distant vistas.

Blessed is God's great name.

God is both Mother and Father, parent-like, full of grace.

We whisper the holy name of the eternal source of mercy.

Let us worship, aware of God's steadfast compassion.

Gathering Prayer:

God, precious Parent of all your people, fill us today with your Holy Spirit, uplift us with your presence, uphold us in your love and grace, strengthen us in faith, now, in this time of worship, and forever. Amen.

We sing: VU 602 Blest Be the Tie That Binds Dennis

Prayer of Confession:

Infinite God of Truth and Love, we come to you in gratitude for the many ways in which you have already healed us and seeking redemption for the ways in which we still betray our relationship with you. We open our hearts to you fully, not fearful but welcoming the grace of your love, offered to all. .

God of Truth, we're listening. God of Love, we're willing.

God of Truth, remove the veil of self-justification that we cling to. Grant clarity in our souls that we might glimpse beyond ego and indifference. Make us aware of the hidden motivations that lead us to settle for who we are now and compromise who we seek to be.

God of Truth, we're listening. God of Love, we're willing.

God of love, we are willing to grow in your light. We are willing to abandon comfortable ways and accept the challenge of living in community, locally and globally. We are willing to understand the service we do with others not as sacrifice but as a joyous entry into your kin-dom on earth.

God of Truth, we're listening. God of Love, we're willing. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

God's love is infinite and unending, and we are enveloped in it always, whether we know it or not, whether we feel it or not. God's love is generous and unconditional, whether we can believe it or not, whether we feel we deserve it or not. Whatever state we are in, God's grace is available. The Holy Spirit is among us, waiting for us to notice, waiting for us to be willing, waiting to breathe us into the fullness of life.

It is so. Thanks be to God. Amen.

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A Reading from Scripture: Hosea 11: 1-11 Linda Nickerson
God cares for Israel like a mother for a child.

A reading from the Gospel: Luke 12: 13-21
The rich fool who builds bigger and bigger barns.

We sing: VU 606 In Christ There Is No East or West McKee

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

We sing: MV 191 What Can I Do?



Offering Prayer:

We lift these gifts of our hands and hearts to the glory that is in you, O Christ. We offer our gifts of talents and time that each of us bring to this community of faith. Receive these gifts, given freely for the greater good of the world. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 271 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Stuttgart

We go out into the world:

May God's great love lead you. May Jesus's great compassion compel you. May the Spirit's song uplift you, this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

We sing: MV 154 Deep In 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
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