

**October 5, 2025**  
**17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Creation Five**

**Worldwide Communion 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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**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:** Chorale Prelude on Song 13 Willan

**Choir:** Know that God is Good, Vs. 1 trad. Song: Congo

**We sing:** VU 274 Your Hand, O God, Has Guided Thornbury

### **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:**

On this day, we gather with believers across the world— one body, one table, one God.

**Though we are many, we are one, the one family of Jesus.**

We light the candle of faith to remember: Jesus is our light, Jesus is our center, Jesus is our peace.

**May this light guide us to unity, kindle our love for one another,  
and shine across every land and language. Amen.**

### **Gathering Words:**

As we gather to receive God's Word and reflect upon it,

**we remember the faith of our ancestors who built this congregation, the faith of those who gather here today, who sustain it, and the faith of siblings in faith around the world who encourage us.**

Remembering God's goodness in coming to us in Jesus, let us gather today around this table.

**We are here to find a welcome, a promise, a hope and a renewed life.**

We remember all those who have eaten at this table over the years: those to whom we are joined in our hearts and those known only to the heart of God.

**We celebrate our oneness in Jesus with them. We celebrate this table of life!**

### **Gathering Prayer:**

As young and old,

**we come at Jesus' invitation, O God.**

As siblings in Christ,

**we come.**

From varied contexts and life situations,

**we come.**

From the corners of the earth,

**we come.**

We come to the table

**at Jesus' invitation.**

We come to worship

**to pay attention to and to live out the Good News.**

We come

**to worship you, our God!**

We come

**joining at the table with our siblings in Jesus around the world.**

Alleluia! Amen!

**We Sing:** Trust these Words (see insert)

**Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Judi Somers

**We sing:** VU 579 The Church Is Wherever God's People (v. 2)

## **WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**

### **Statement of Purpose:**

The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by the Holy Spirit. We gather to celebrate God's presence, to discern God's truth, and to follow the way of Jesus. By our baptism, we are made members of Jesus' church. We exercise this membership in the denomination to which we belong, which for us is The United Church of Canada, and within the context of a local community of faith. We now welcome into this congregation those who are already members of the church of Jesus Christ.

### **Presentation of Members:** *(Representative of Worship and Sacraments Committee)*

On behalf of the Gower Street United Church congregation, I present the following persons whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith:

*David Peters  
Sandra Nightingale*

### **Commitment of New Members:**

*David and Sandra*, will you join with us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil?

**I will, with God's help.**

### **Congregational Commitment:**

Dear friends in Jesus, **let us pledge to David and Sandra our support and care. As your siblings in faith, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Jesus' church.**

**Profession of Faith:** VU 918 A New Creed

### **Welcome:**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. We give thanks to God for your witness among us. **Alleluia! Amen!**

## **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

Derek Green

On this holy day, when your Church gathers from every nation, language, and people,  
**We come to your Word with open hearts and seeking spirits.**

As we prepare to break bread at your table with our siblings around the world,

**send your Holy Spirit to illumine our minds, soften our hearts,  
and open our eyes to the truths found within your Word.**

Speak, O God, through the Scriptures we hear—

so that your gospel of peace might take deeper root within us,  
challenging our divisions, healing our wounds,  
and calling us into a unity that reflects your divine love.

**May your Word cross every border and boundary today,  
uniting us in one faith, one baptism, one God and Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**A reading from Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 Derek Green

The Spirit gives different gifts to each person, all for the common good.

**A reading from Scripture:** Romans 12:4–8

As one body with many parts, each person's unique gifts build up the whole community.

**Anthem:** For everyone born

(The choir will remain seated for the singing of this hymn anthem)

**Story:**            *When God Made the World*    By: Matthew Paul Turner

## Exploring Creation

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Adaptation of liturgy by Alydia Smith)

**Communion Hymn:** For everyone born (see insert)

#### **Invitation to Communion:**

Friends, God in Jesus prepares a feast for all of us. It is a banquet of good things for our hearts and souls. All are welcome at this gathering—no matter who you are or what you have done; no matter your age or gender or who you love. Come and taste. Eat and be filled. Drink deeply and never thirst again.

**This is the table of Jesus Christ who invites us all to this feast that can change our lives.**

God be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts;

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God!

**It is right to give God our thanks and praise!**

**We sing:**        VU 457 As We Gather at Your Table, v. 1  
Beach Spring

Though creation sometimes weeps,

**we wait lovingly for you, God.**

For you created the heavens.....

**You could sustain all of your creation, but you will not, without us.**

Thank-you for the wonders of creation and for your great trust in us.

**Though humanity sometimes weeps, we wait lovingly for you, God.**

For you smiled ...You could have made us self-sustaining,

**but you did not, your love sustains us.**

Thank you for the worldwide fellowship of disciples, **who faithfully attempt to share your love with all of creation.**

**With whom we sing:**

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God almighty***

***Heaven and earth are filled with your glory!***

***Hosanna in the highest,***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God***

***Heaven and earth are filled with your glory!***

***Hosanna in the highest!***

The bread of life,

**nourishes our deprived bodies.**

The cup of blessing,

**revives our thirsty souls.**

The gathered community,

**strengthens our growing faith.**

Thus together we proclaim the mystery of our faith

**Jesus has died!**

Jesus is risen!

**Jesus will come again!**

Though the church sometimes weeps,

**we wait lovingly for you, God.**

For centuries, Christians of different customs have gathered to commune with you and each other through the sharing of this feast.

**In their partaking you have been with them, just as you are with us now.**

And so, we join with our siblings in recalling how on the night before he died, it was Jesus who took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This is the new covenant; do this for the remembrance of me."



**Blessing The Bread and the Cup:**

God we remember and give thanks for our friend Jesus. All Praise be to you, now, tomorrow, and forever. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus**

**Sharing the Bread and Cup:**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.  
For the people of God, the table is set and all is ready.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**Prayer after Communion:**

We do not want your reign in us to be an afterthought, O God.

**Strengthen us by what we have shared this morning, that we may dare to confront our fears, loving one another as you love us, and be the body of Jesus in the world. Amen.**

**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](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**

**We sing:** VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow  
Old 100<sup>th</sup>

**Offering Prayer:**

**We ask you to bless what we offer, O God, as part of the body of Jesus. May our generosity cause ripples of joy-filled laughter and hope to spread. Through these gifts gratefully given, may your blessing become our dance of delight as we share our gifts. Amen.**

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 642 Be Thou My Vision Slane

**We go out into the world:**

Do not fear: the Spirit of Life is with you.

**The Spirit gathers all the peoples, from all directions.**

Each one is created for God's glory.

**We are formed and made to be justice and peace makers for each other as part of the body of faith.**

Let us go out to be our part of the body of Jesus in the world.

**Three-Fold Amen** Danish

**Postlude:** Vulpius (*from Chorale Preludes, Set II*) Willan

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 2, 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:** Jonathan Stevenson

# Mugs and Music

Join us for an evening of wonderful music with performers from the Music Studio of Etcetera Productions. Coffee, Tea and Sweets included.

## October 19

Gower Lecture Hall  
(Gower Street Entrances)  
7:00 PM. (Doors Open 6:30p.m.)  
Tickets \$20.00

Purchase tickets via Gower Office  
99 Queens Rd. 709-753-7286.

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Friday: 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Payment (cash, cheque or e-transfer)  
due on ticket distribution



# Trust these Words

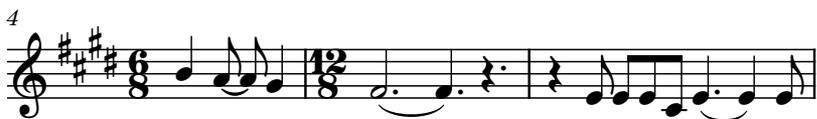
Words: Lisa Waites

Music: Lisa Waites



**Trust these words: you are forgiven!  
Through Christ's mercy, broken hearts can be restored;  
trust these words: you are forgiven!  
Live in peace, beloved, know you are adored:  
trust these words, trust these words,  
trust these words.**

**Trust these words: we are forgiven!  
through God's mercy broken lives can be restored:  
trust these words: we are forgiven!  
Live in grace and peace, oh, love and serve the Lord;  
trust these words, trust these words,  
trust these words.**



1. **For everyone born,**  
 a place at the table,  
 for everyone born,  
 clean water and bread,  
 a shelter, a space,  
 a safe place for growing,  
 for everyone born,  
 a star overhead.

2. For those who share life  
 a place at the table,  
 revising the roles  
 deciding the share,  
 with wisdom and grace,  
 dividing the power,  
 for all who share life,  
 a system that's fair, **R/**

3. For those we neglect,  
 a place at the table,  
 a voice to be heard,  
 a part in the song,  
 the hands of a child,  
 in hands that are wrinkled,  
 for those we neglect,  
 the right to belong,

***R/And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice....justice and peace.***

4. For all who share life,  
 a place at the table,  
 a covenant shared,  
 a welcoming space,  
 a rainbow of race,  
 and gender and colour,  
 for all who have breath,  
 the chalice of grace, **R/**

5. For you and for me,  
 a place at the table,  
 though wounded and sore,  
 with need to forgive,  
 in anger, in hurt,  
 a mind-set of mercy,  
 for you and for me,  
 a new way to live,

6. For everyone born,  
 a place at the table,  
 to love without fear,  
 and simply to be,  
 to work, to speak out,  
 to witness and worship  
 for everyone born,  
 the right to be free, **R/**

# Holy. holy, holy

Words: Traditional liturgical text

Music: Jason D. Locke

## Sanctus from *Mass for a New Season*

Soprano

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God al - might ty heav en and earth are filled  
S. with your glo ry! Ho ly ho - ly, ho ly, Lord God al - might - y  
7 S. heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry! Ho - san - na Ho -  
10 S. - san - na ho - san - na in the high - est!  
13 S. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the  
16 S. high - est! Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of God,  
19 S. heav - en and earth are filled with your glor - y! Bless ed is the one who comes  
22 S. in the name of God, heav - en and earth are filled with your glor - y!  
25 S. Ho - san - na Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the  
28 S. high - est! Ho - san - na ho - san - na,  
31 S. ho - san - na in the high est!