

September 21, 2025 15th Sunday after Pentecost Creation Three

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.

Today's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Elva Fizzard
from Gwen Alcock

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Meditation on "Ar Hyd Y Nos" Christiansen

Choir: Trust these Words, v.1

We sing: VU 232 Joyful, Joyful Hymn to Joy

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: Gill Family

All creation is made of star-stuff. From the basic building blocks of the universe, come fire, air, earth, and water.

And all creation sings praise to the Creator of all.

Baptized by the waters of the sky, standing firm on the earth, breathing deep the breath of life, warmed by this flame...

we go where the light of faith shines!

Alleluia! **Alleluia, Amen!**

Gathering Words:

Earth.

The foundation upon which we stand.

Loam.

A place of growth, of nourishment, of life!

Dirt.

A place of work, a place of play—

Of a parent saying, "Come in and get cleaned up!"

Earth. Loam. Dirt. Land.

Four-legged, winged, creepy crawly, slithering slimy, fantastically beautiful, miraculously mysterious.....all God's Creatures!!

Sacred. Holy. Ever strong and ever changing.

Filled with God's love, awesome and amazing!

Alleluia! Amen!

Gathering Prayer:

Turn us into fertile soil, God of all creation.

Plant in us seeds of faith, of hope and of wonder, that will grow into rich harvest.

Help us to know that the creatures of this amazing earth are ours to care for and cradle.

Help us to know that we and the land are inseparable—we are one.

One in you. **Amen.**

We Sing: VU 229 God of the Sparrow, Vs. 1-5 Roeder

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

Exploring Creation

Blessing of the Backpacks:

Holy One, bless these bags and those who carry them as they journey into yet another year of school and work. Give them peace when they feel nervous, focus when they feel distracted, and energy when they feel tired. Open their minds to the lessons they will learn. Please help them to make friends who build one another up and be friends to those who need them. Guide them in making good choices as they grow in wisdom. Be ever-present with them in community and at home, and may they feel your loving care in all they do. Amen.

We Sing: VU 229 God of the Sparrow, Vs. 6 Roeder

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination: Edward Moores

Word of life, come to us this morning through the holy scriptures, through song and praise, through one another, and through silence. **Come, holy spirit, come. Amen.**

A reading from Scripture: Genesis 1: 20-25 Edward Moores
God fills the waters, skies, and land with living creatures.

A reading from Scripture: Job 12: 7-10
Every creature testifies to God's handiwork.

Anthem: Take My Life, and Let It Be Landgrave

Meditation

We sing: VU 307 Touch the Earth Lightly Tenderness

Prayer for Transformation:

Creating God, you have called us to be in loving relations with all the Earth, living with respect in creation, choosing love and always seeking justice.

Instead, humankind has acted in hateful ways, exploiting natural resources, choosing power and seeking wealth in the present over future abundance. We need your help to know a better future!

Help to reawaken our love for Creation, that is so magnificent that we, with all our creativity and knowledge, could never articulate it; and so passionate that we, with the personal price and communal cost, would still fight for it.

Help to deepen our relationships and love for each other: affirming the wisdom of all those working diligently for climate change, so that we are not discouraged by empty platitudes and naysayers.

Help us to grow our community of allies, so that we can create a sustainable and faithful response to the imminent climate crisis.

For the sake of your majestic creation, and for the love of all our relations; help us to lead in the cause for a better future for our world. Amen.

—Adapted from a prayer for the Fridays for Future Climate Strike movement by Alydia Smith

The Prayer of Jesus

An Affirmation of God's Forgiveness:

We are a forgiven people. **Because God said, "it is good!"**

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.

A Minute for Engagement Tony Chadwick, Stewardship Team

Gathering our Gifts



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

Offering Prayer:

Holy One, you have called us friends and named us partners in your work of Creation. Accept the gifts we bring and bless them for your use, that they may reveal to others the depth of your love for all people and for Creation itself. Amen.

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 678 For the Healing of the Nations
Westminster Abbey

We go out into the world:

The human creatures are invited to work the land but also to rest from work.

There is a time to praise God in community and a time to praise God in rest.

Go forward, knowing there is a time to work and a time to rest.

At all times, in work, at play, and at rest, praise the glory of God.

Amen!

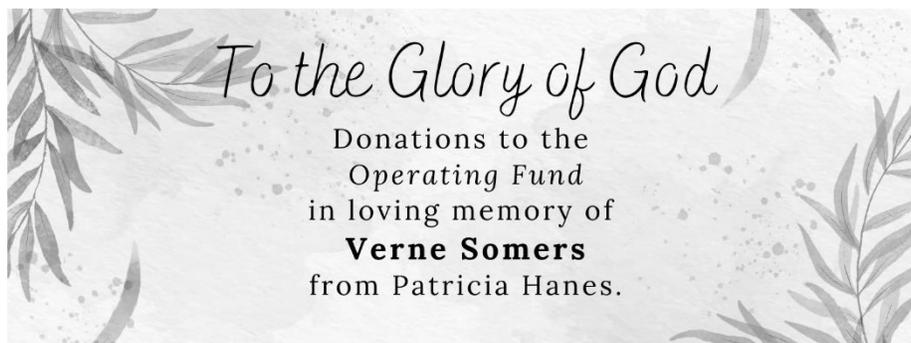
We sing: VU 884 You Shall Go Out with Joy Trees of the Field

Postlude: Tuba Magnum John Madden

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: Patrick Griffin



WHAT'S UP AT GOWER

Engagement Expo: Your teams still need volunteers to help carry out the various missions that our faith community have undertaken to bring concrete examples of our faith to the wider community. In short, what impact does our belief in Jesus have on the lives of people outside these walls? If you missed the earlier Engagement Expo or want to reappraise your commitment to Gower Street United Church, our next Expo will take place after the church service on September 28th. Teams include: Stewardship, Pastoral Care, Children, Education and Families, Worship and Sacraments, Outreach, Communications, Ministry and Personnel, Finance, Property, and Affirm. Team leaders will

be present to explain the mission of each team, the amount of time you may be called upon to give, and to answer any questions you may have. Please give prayerful consideration to your engagement!

Membership: Soon, we hope to have a worship service to welcome new members to our community of faith. Often done as confirmation for youth or adults to renew the vows made on their behalf in Baptism, an opportunity is also given to those who may wish to transfer their membership from another congregation within the United Church of Canada or from other Christian denominations.

We also invite those who given to those who have felt a particular calling of God in their life, perhaps in response to specific life experiences, when returning to active participation in a congregation after a period of distance, or simply by having their "hearts strangely warmed" and have experienced an awakening to a deeper understanding of the promises made in their baptism for the Reaffirmation of their Baptismal Vows. This process is sometimes called the "Profession of Faith." Email Rev. Pamela if you are interested in Adult Confirmation, Profession of Faith, or Membership transfer, or if you'd like more information.

Films on the Go at Gower: We're partnering with the St. John's International Women's Film Festival to present Films On The Go! Watch a collection of short films from the most recent St. John's International Women's Film Festival. This year's Films on the Go lineup delivers seven short films packed with big emotion, sharp humour, and unforgettable moments. Crafted by filmmakers from Newfoundland & Labrador, Mi'kma'ki, Canada, and beyond. Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Gower Lecture Hall. Admission is donations to Bridges to Hope: financial and/or personal care items, specifically pads, tampons, shampoo, bar soap, and toilet paper, are greatly appreciated.

Open Doors: We continue offer everyone various opportunities to tour our beautiful sanctuary with knowledgeable tour guides. This program was funded by "The Convening Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation." We are grateful to The United Church of Canada Foundation for their continued support. The schedule of time our building will have its doors open is here:

Saturday, 20 September 2025	12:00 PM	4:30 PM
Tuesday, 23 September 2025	11:00 AM	4:00 PM
Wednesday, 24 September 2025	11:00 AM	4:00 PM
Friday, 26 September 2025	10:00 AM	1:00 pm
Saturday, 27 September 2025	12:00 PM	4:30 PM
Tuesday, 30 September 2025	10:00 AM	5:00 PM
Wednesday, 1 October 2025	11:00 AM	4:00 PM
Thursday, 2 October 2025	12:00 PM	4:00 PM
Friday, 3 October 2025	12:00 PM	4:00 PM
Saturday, 4 October 2025	12:00 PM	4:30 PM
Sunday, 5 October 2025	12:30 PM	5:00 PM

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.

COMING UP AT GOWER

Sunday Worship:

September 28: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Creation Four, Orange Shirt Day Worship

October 5: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Creation Five, Membership Sunday, Worldwide Communion Sunday

Weekly Activities

September 21: Family Faith Every Day Gathering at 4:00 p.m.

September 23: Gower Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

September 24: Gower Youth at 4:30 p.m., Gower Community Band at 7:30 p.m.

September 25: Pause for Prayer at 4:30 p.m. (Online). Films on The Go Screening at 7:00 p.m.

September 26: Children, Education and Families Meeting at 4:30 p.m.