

## September 28, 2025 16th Sunday after Pentecost Creation Four Orange Shirt Day

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 in A**

Selby

**Choir:** Trust these words, v.2

**We sing:** VU 292 Creating God, We Give You Thanks

Wareham

**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:**

The whole creation groans, waiting to be renewed.

**Yet hope is born in every act of care, every choice for life.**

We light this candle for hope, for renewal, for the promise that God is making all things new.

**God of Resurrection, ignite in us the fire of hope.**

**May our lives bear witness to your renewing work in creation.**

**Gathering Words:**

Over half of our body is water,

**with currents and tides and waves that wash through us, second by second, minute by minute, year by year.**

Just like all other living things and creatures on this planet, Earth.

**Part of God's creation.**

**Gathering Prayer:**

Oh, let the waters come down, and baptize us, once again.

**Oh, let creatures cry for healing and justice!**

Oh, let the waters come up,

**and make our hearts' deserts bloom!**

Oh, let the waters come through,

**and make our minds flood with justice and compassion in action!**

Oh, let the waters come out,

**and soak our faces in tears.**

Oh, let the waters come in,

**and fill our thirsty souls.**

Oh, let the waters come

**and carry us to you, the Healer, the Peace-Maker, the Justice Seeker, God-of-All. Amen.**

**Orange Shirt Day:**

Holy One, Child of Life, Great Spirit, we meet you in the company of ancestors and the oft-unnoticed presence of people praying throughout the country, connected by a longing for peace and healing.

**Find our hearts open and ready for reconciliation as we face the injustices of the past and long for the joy of a future of peace and healing.**

Help us to attend well to the stories we need to receive. Awaken our hearts with the stories of residential school survivors and their kin.

**Together, we weep for the children, then and now for braids, beads, new moccasins, and the orange shirt taken away leaving only broken hearts; for parents whose hearts were torn from them when their children were taken; for children whose tongues were silenced when they lost their languages and names. Awaken our spirit, O God.**

Help us to hold the stories faithfully, so that they may transform us and become part of us.

**May our prayers be translated into compassion and may our “Amen” be this truth: Indigenous brothers, sisters, and siblings:**

**We receive your stories. May they lead us in wisdom and may we journey together in love. Amen.**

**We Sing:** VU 703 In the Bulb There is a Flower, v.1 & 2  
Promise

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

### Exploring Creation

**We Sing:** VU 703 In the Bulb There is a Flower v.3 Promise

### LISTENING TO THE STORY

**Prayer for Illumination:** Naomi Addison

O Great Dreamer, you dreamed up the stars in the sky.

**You dreamed up that magic baby smell and the way cream sinks into coffee.**

You dreamed up the crunch of fall leaves and jazz music.

**You dreamed up wisteria and evergreen and the pure magic that is a six-foot-tall sunflower.**

And amid all of that, you dreamed up a dream for your people—a dream of hope and justice, a dream for hearts wide open both to the world’s suffering and to the world’s beauty.

**So today, as we read scripture, we ask that you plant that same dream in us.**

Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds so that we may notice what you notice and dream what you dream.

**Gratefully, we pray. Amen.**

**A reading from Scripture:** Genesis 1: 26-27 Naomi Addison  
God creates humanity in the divine image.

**A reading from Scripture:** Acts 17:26–28  
God made all nations, in whom we live and move and have our being.

**Anthem:** Here I Am, Lord Schutte

### Meditation

**We sing:** MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name

### 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.*

**Mission & Service Stories:** Keeping Language and Culture Alive

### Gathering our Gifts:

We are called to participate in the healing of the world. Our offerings can enable this community and others to be what the church is called to be, offering healing and love.



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

### Offering Prayer:

**We bring the first fruits of our labour and love for the support of our spiritual home and work. Bless and multiply these outer symbols of our generosity so that many more may share in the bountiful experience of Jesus in renewal, restoration, and resurrection. Amen.**

## Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

### WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

**We sing:** VU 242 Let All Things Now Living The Ash Grove

**We go out into the world:**

May the love and wisdom of the God who made us lead us through this coming week.

**May the power and mercy of the Lord Jesus who loves us bring us strength.**

And may the joy of the Holy Spirit in all that has been and is being created fill our hearts, today and always.

**We go now in peace. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 245 Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet  
Praise the Lord

**Postlude:** Ceremonial March Sumsion

*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 Parady  
**Organist & Music Ministry:** R. Carl Goulding  
**Custodian:** David Noseworthy  
**Board Chair:** Patrick Griffin



### What's Up at Gower

**Office Closed:** Our office will be closed on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, as we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day). For non-Indigenous Christians, in particular, this is a time to reflect on their role in colonialism and the ongoing responsibility to make reparations.

**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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 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.

**New Year's Greeting to our Jewish Community:** Shana Tova (a good year) to our Jewish community as they celebrate Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year – which began, Tuesday evening, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and concluded Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Shana Tova

**Gower Street United Celebrates: 100th anniversary of "Women's Right To Vote"; 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, October 26, 2025:** 100 years ago, women won the right to vote on the island of Newfoundland (Labrador, later in 1946). Rose Emma Peters of Gower and other church and community women were key leaders in this 'suffragist' movement.

100 years ago, The United Church of Canada came into being (with the National 100th Anniversary Worship Service at Gower Street United, June 8th – an historic event for Gower, our Province and for The United Church of Canada).

**Circle the date of Sunday, October 26th, 11 a.m. now!** Through a 'worship, lunch and learn', we are celebrating 'women's right to vote' within our United Church 100th Anniversary year. As guest speaker we are privileged to have Dr. Margot Duley with us on Sunday, October 26th (historian; author of "From Silence to Suffrage: Women's Path to Citizenship in Newfoundland, 1803 – 1949"; forthcoming Boulder Books, Oct./Nov., 2025). Our Minister Emeritus, The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parly, also, will provide leadership. You will not want to miss this engaging, informative and celebrative event.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support from The Centennial Granting Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation, which helped bring this event to life.

**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](mailto: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 28:** Family Faith Every Day Gathering at 4:00 p.m.

**October 1:** Pastoral Care Worship at Tiffany Village at 3:00 p.m., Affirm Meeting at 4:00 p.m., Gower Community Band at 7:30 p.m.

**October 2:** Pause for Prayer at 4:30 p.m. (Online)