

August 30, 2026 14th 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.

PRESIDING: Bert Riggs

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: VU 339 When Morning Gilds the Skies

Laudes Domini

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:

Week after week, we light the candle, reminding ourselves that Christ is the light for the world. And yet, we don't need a candle to recall this vital truth. **Our lives are directed by faith, hope, and love. If we commit ourselves to these guiding principles, the light of faith shines in us!**

Gathering Words:

May the God of grace be welcome in our midst.

May we receive the power and peace of Divine Love.

Come let us worship with our hearts, minds, and bodies.

Let us become a people seeking justice and compassion.

Blessed be God who challenges, heals, and unites us.

Blessed be our learning in this place and blessed be our vision of possibilities.

Blessed be God who inspires all things to be new.

Gathering Prayer:

Loving God, we need you in many roles. As we launch this time of worship, empower us and call us to be an open door, allowing you to enter in. Meet us where our need is and call us to where you need us as your disciples. Amen.

We sing: VU 372 Though I May Speak

O Waly Waly

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, too often we forget that it is you who abundantly supplies our needs. Thinking we have done it ourselves, we hoard our resources and gifts or share them only with others in similar circumstances. We love to compare and feel that we are blessed and worthy. But you show us a different way. You invite us to share not only with those we deem worthy but with everyone. You urge us to count not the cost but rather the blessings. You promise an everlasting abundance when we open our hearts and embody true hospitality. Forgive our smallness, Gracious God, and help us to embrace the kingdom values of humility and generosity. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

We are human. We forget. We hoard. We hold on. We make unfair comparisons.

The God of creation knows our human failings and loves us in spite of them.

God not only loves us, God also forgives us, always.

Thanks be to God for such undeserved grace.

LISTENING TO THE STORY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Jonathan Stevenson

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word, may your Spirit be with us. Help us to be faithful to what we hear, in what we say, in what we believe, and in how we live. **Amen.**

A reading from Scripture: 1 Kings 8: 1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43 Solomon speaks to God in the temple.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 84 VU p. 800
How Lovely, God

A reading from the Gospel: John 6: 56-69

We sing: VU 681 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Fulda

Meditation: "Seeing Clearly"

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:

Our gifts and tithes are gladly received. We pledge them to the furthering of God's purpose and the support of this church: a ministry of welcome, education, justice, and care for all.

We sing: MV 191 What Can I Do?

Offering Prayer:

Generous God, we receive so much from you. Receive what we give, bless it and us, allowing it to grow our discipleship. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus (VU 960)

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 660 How Firm a Foundation

St Denio

We go out into the world:

Let us go out in love and service.

Let us go out ready to give all that we are and have as disciples of Jesus.

Let us go, committed to persistent love and service.

Let us go, knowing that God is with us. Amen.

We sing: MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts, Vs. 1

Freed

Postlude

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2026, Year C.

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Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter

Interim Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Karen Thorne

Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding

Custodian: David Noseworthy

Board Chair: Jonathan Stevenson