

August 9, 2026 Eleventh 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 honored, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged.

We are dedicated to being welcoming and affirming, engaging participation of all, including people of any age, color, 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 gratitude for the ministry of **Rev. Bruce Gregersen** here at Gower St. UC
remembered by **Rev. Karen**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Chorale Prelude on "Song 13"

Willan

We sing: VU 509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

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 welcomed in fullness.

Gathering Words:

While our world is a storm of trouble and grief,
in worship we find a time of calm, reflection and renewal.

We seek the courage of God's word planted deep in our hearts.

Let us slow down in order to receive God's wisdom for our lives.

We seek the comfort of God's grace, refreshing our soul.

Let us reflect and remember God's promise to us.

We seek the compassion of God's love, nourishing our lives.

Let us share with those around us, reminding all of God's blessings – sometimes that have come in the midst of the challenges.

We seek the reassurance that we will not be alone in our struggles and darkest moments.

Let us be reminded that we can trust in God at all times
to be our help and shield. Let us pray together.

Gathering Prayer:

**O God of Life and Love,
who seeks and finds the lost,
who gives strength to the weary,
help us to find our bearings in you.**

**Lead us from falsehood to truth,
lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust,
lead us from hate to love,
from war to peace.**

**Let your peace fill our hearts,
our world, our universe. Amen.**

We sing: VU 356 Seek Ye First

Lafferty

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A Reading from Scripture: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45 b
(VU. pp. 828-829 Parts One and Two) Remembering Joseph.

A reading from the Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33
Jesus walks across stormy waters and lifts Peter back into the boat.

We sing: VU 563 Jesus, You have come to the Lakeshore

Meditation: "In the Boat, Together!"

Musical Reflection: Ar Hyd Y Nos

Clay Christenson

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:

Gracious God of all potential and all patience, you know so much better than us what we have, what we are, what we can be.

We can only begin to imagine what we might do and be together.

Help us to glimpse that vision of your kin-dom more clearly and inspire us to meet the challenges we face.

By your Spirit, bless the gifts offered, both here in person and online, as well as the gifts of time and talent offered throughout the past week and the days ahead. In Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus (sung)

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We Sing: VU 675. Will Your Anchor Hold

We Go Out into the world:

Christ within you and within me, the hope of glory to come.

Let us go into the world with a daring and tender love.

Let us be brave but also discerning and wise,
aware of the power that we bear together as followers of Christ.

**We will look around and listen for the Spirit with us –
now- on this journey. We are not without help. We are not alone.**

The world is waiting. Let us go in peace.

May all that we do be done in compassion and service
to the God of love for all generations,
and to our teacher and brother and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude: Fuge in C BuxWV 174

Buxtehude

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2026, Year C Gathering Prayer was adapted from VU 693.

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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

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