

June 14, 2026
3rd Sunday After Pentecost
Baptism

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. We also acknowledge the island of Kaimuki (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. And we acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. 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 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

Gower Community Band Musicale:

Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head
arranged by John Tatgenhorst
Excerpts from the Sound of Music
arranged by Robert R. Bennett
Pavanne
Morton Gould
A Celebration of Joy (Movement 3 of into the Joy of Spring)
by James Swearingen
Over the Rainbow
arranged by Justin Williams

We sing: MV 1 Let Us build a house (Vs 1,2,4,5)

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.

Lighting of The Candle of Faith:

As we light the Candle of Faith today, may its flame remind us of God's love that guides and strengthens us each day.

May our hearts be filled with trust, hope, and joy as we walk together in faith and share God's light with others.

Gathering Words:

As we gather in this holy space, we celebrate the beautiful diversity of our community and the many voices, stories, and gifts that make us stronger together.

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, and however you identify, know that you are welcome here and that you belong.

Today, through music, reflection, and friendship, may we experience the joy of inclusion, the power of community, and the hope that comes when all are embraced with love and dignity.

As we also kick off the summer season, may these warmer days bring renewal, connection, and opportunities to share kindness with one another and the wider world.

Let us gather in gratitude, celebration, and song.

Gathering Prayer:

Loving God, as we gather today in song and friendship, we thank you for the gift of this new summer season.

We celebrate the warmth, beauty, and joy that surround us, and the many different people who make our community bright and strong.

Help us to welcome one another with open hearts, just as you welcome each of us.

May every person here know they belong, are valued, and are loved.

As we sing, learn, and share together, fill us with kindness, laughter, and hope.

Bless this time of worship and guide us to be a rainbow of your love in the world. Amen.

Message from the Moderator

THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

Jesus Blesses Little Children

13 Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples

spoke sternly to those who brought them; 14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Mark 10: 13-15)

Presentation of Candidates:

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church, I present:

CASEY BRUCE JONES

child of KATELYN ANNE NOLAN and BRADLEY ERIC JONES

The Profession of Faith and Promises:

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit? **I do, by the grace of God.**

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice? **I do, God being my helper.**

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ? **I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your siblings in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, and love and serve others? **I will, God being my helper.**

Congregational Commitment:

Let us pledge our support and care.

As a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the wider community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith - A New Creed

VU 918

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water:

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation. By water comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Baptism in the name of the Triune God:

CASEY, we baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Marking with the Sign of the Cross:

CASEY, Child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Laying on of Hands:

CASEY, the power of the Holy Spirit works within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Recognizing the Candle:

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

CASEY, may the candle lit for you remind us that Jesus said, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God." **Amen.**

Hopes and Dreams for Casey

Presentation to the Congregation

Declaration and Congregational Welcome:

There is one God, one faith, one baptism:

By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body. We are children of the one God, Parent of us all. We

welcome you into the community of faith.

We sing: VU 454 May God who creates you

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A reading of Psalm 139, VU, p. 861

Solo: The Rainbow Connection Justin Goulding
Gower Community Band: What a Wonderful World
arranged by Bob Lowden

A Time to Explore: The Story of the “Lupin Lady”

We sing: MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

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:

Loving God, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. Bless them and bless us, that together—inclusion, diversity, and love may flourish in all we do. Amen.

Prayers for the World and The Prayer of Jesus

Blessing for Travelers

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: MV 209 Go Make a Difference

We go out into the world:

As we go from this place, may the songs we have shared continue to echo in our hearts.

Like wildflowers and the colors of the rainbow, like the many colors of the wildflowers in the fields, may we see the beauty around us and within; may live as, signs of God's wonderful boundless love—a love that welcomes every person, celebrates every voice, and delights in the beautiful diversity of creation.

As summer unfolds before us, may its warmth renew our spirits, its light guide our paths, and its beauty awaken joy and wonder within each and every one of us.

May we find rest in sunny days, hope in blooming gardens, laughter among friends, and peace in moments of stillness.

Go forth knowing that you are loved, valued, and embraced exactly as you are.

May we be a blessing to others, sharing kindness, compassion, and songs of hope wherever we go.

And may the Creator of all colors and all melodies bless you and keep you, this day and throughout the summer season.

Amen.

Postlude: Psalm X1X Marcello

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 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

WHAT'S UP AT GOWER

COMING UP AT GOWER

Sunday Worship Services:

June 21: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – 11:00am

Upcoming Weekly Activities:

Open Doors: We are excited to once again this summer 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 when our building will have its doors open is here:
Everyday from 29th June to the last day of August from 10am – 4pm
(exception of wedding and other event days)

Additional days for "Open Doors" (Sanctuary):

Every Saturday from 4 July to August 29 (same times)

Tuesday, 16 June 2026	12:00 - 5:00
Sunday, 30 August 2026	12:30 - 5:00
Monday, 31 August 2026	9:00 - 4:00
Wednesday, 2 September 2026	9:00 - 4:00
Thursday, 3 September 2026	9:00 – 4:00
Monday, 7 September 2026	9:00 – 4:00
Tuesday, 8 September 2026	9:00 – 4:00
Tuesday, 15 September 2026	10:00 – 4:30
Saturday, 19 September 2026	10:00 – 4:00
Tuesday, 22 September 2026	9:00 – 4:00
Wednesday, 30 September 2026	10:00 – 4:00

NO OTHER LAND:

7:00 PM

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Gower Street United Church
St. John's, NL

A FILM SCREENING

This Academy Award-winning film, made by a Palestinian-Israeli collective, shows the destruction of the village of Masafer Yatta by Israeli soldiers and settlers in the occupied West Bank, and the alliance that develops between Palestinian activist Basel and Israeli journalist Yuval.

The film is approximately 95 minutes. A discussion will follow the screening.

All are welcome! Please use the Spirit of Newfoundland lower door on Gower Street.



Open Hearts • Open Minds • Open Arms

