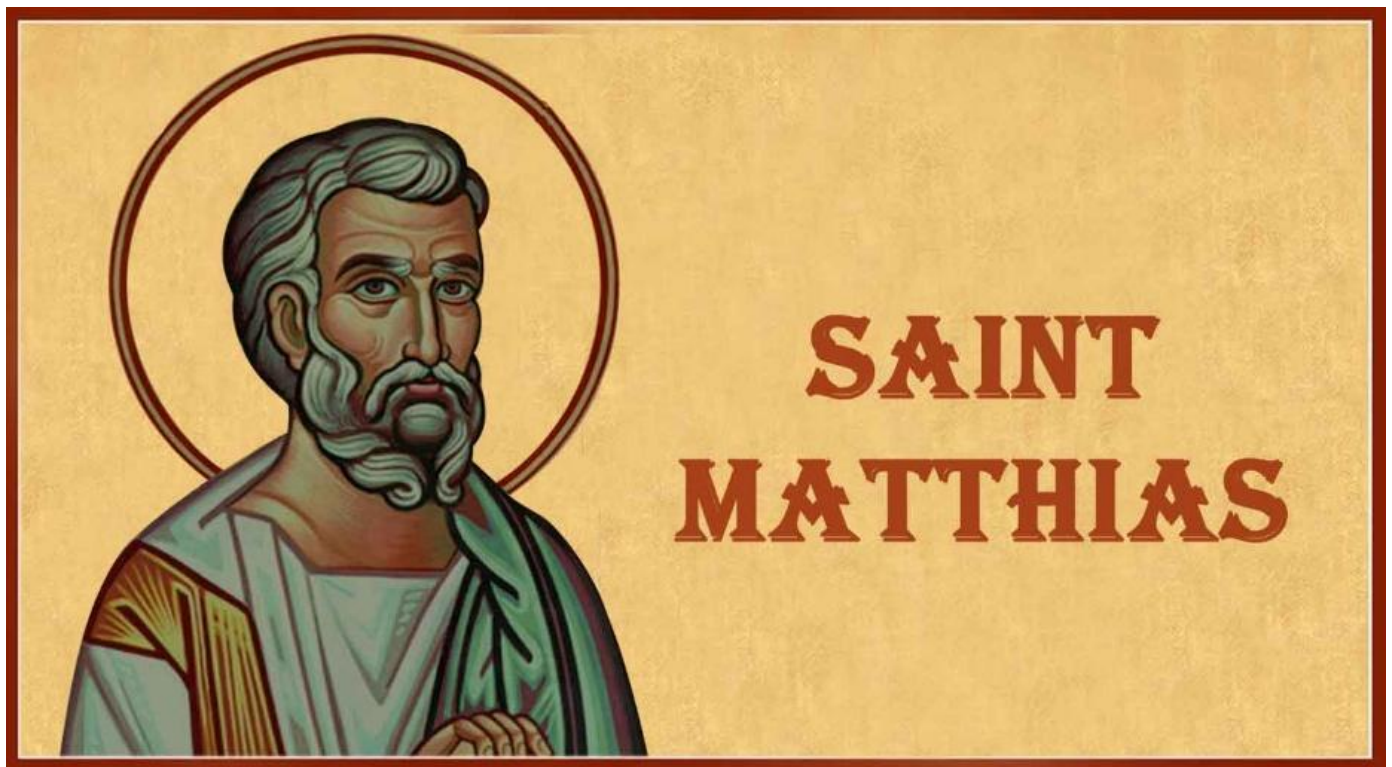


June 7, 2026 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

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. 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.

Today's bulletin is dedicated to the service by the **Gower Social Service Club.**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

Today, worship leadership is provided by members of the Gower Service and Social Club, led by Bert Riggs.

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: VU 161 "Welcome, Happy Morning"

Hermas

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 Christ Candle:

Let us express delight in the presence of our Creator! The earth is so full of our God's steadfast love.

We gather to praise and celebrate our God, for the word of the Lord is right and true.

God loves honesty and decency; God loves truthfulness and fairness; in God we find our refuge and our strength.

Let us worship the God of love with joyful hearts, for God's unfailing love endures forever. (The Candle is lit.)

Gathering Words: (based on Jeremiah 31):

Shout for joy in the presence of our Creator,
who loves us with an everlasting love,
as a parent loves their children;

**who gathers us together from the north and the south,
the east and the west;**

who leads us beside quiet streams,
and shows us the way we should go.

Let us worship our God.

Gathering Prayer:

Eternal and gracious God, in love you created us, and came to us as a babe born in a manger.

In your love you welcome us as your children; in love you lead us faithfully, and with your mercy, you hear our prayers.

We praise and thank you, Lord! Hear us, your beloved children, as we come before you in worship, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We Sing: VU 672 "Take Time to Be Holy"

Holiness

Gower Learners

Rev. Karen Thorne

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Susan & Derek Green

God of all understanding, open our minds so that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 27: 11-15

Responsive Psalm 1: VU 724

New Testament Reading: Acts 1: 1-26

The Word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Interlude:

Ken Butt and Ken Slaney

“Where Have All the Flowers Gone?”

Meditation: “Who was Saint Matthias?”

Bert Riggs

We Sing: VU 660 “How Firm a Foundation”

St. Denio

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH OUR MINISTRY

The offering plates are located near the sanctuary doors. You are invited to place your offerings there when you arrive or leave. You can also scan the QR code on our bulletin to donate via our website.



Gathering our Gifts

We sing: MV 191 What Can I Do?

Offering Prayer:

All that we have is from you, dear God, our Creator. Take these humble gifts, bless them, and enable them to do all that they can to make this world a better place. This we ask in Jesus' name! Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Robert Tuck

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We Sing: VU 497 “Nearer, My God, to Thee”

Excelsior (Bethany)

SUNG BENEDICTION: VU 298 “When You Walk from Here”

Postlude

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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