

October 25, 2026 22nd Sunday After Pentecost Guaranteed Annual Income

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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Leading: Rev. Karen Thorne with the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

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: Prelude on Old 100th

We sing: VU 226 For the Beauty of the Earth

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: In this generation we hear messages in so many places that we need to protect ourselves, to take care of ourselves, to just worry about ourselves. But the world cries out. Do we see injustice in our midst? Do we recognize the real needs of others, both young and old? Our candles are lit today in faith and hope, recognizing the powerful and empowering light and love of God present with us here and now.

Gathering Words:

(from Psalm 100)

Shout to God, all the earth. **worship with gladness and joy.**

Come before God with laughter, **our maker to whom we belong.**

To the Shepherd who tends us like sheep,

Let us raise our voices in song.

Praise and bless God's name. God is good, gracious, and faithful.

Yes! All the time, God is good!

Gathering Prayer:

Here we are, wondrous God, gathered from the busyness of life, to find our center in you. Clear the clutter from our minds, lift our burdens and cares, and bless us all as we seek to live as bearers of your love and peace for a hurting world. Let your light shine brightly within and among us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We sing: VU 600 When I Needed a Neighbour

Neighbour

We sing: "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table" vs. 1,4
(with percussion instruments!)

TLUS 28

(Gower Learners will begin after the song)

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Karl Wells

Eternal God,
through scripture, sermon, prayers and music,
may your Word be heard;
through the meditation of our minds and hearts,
may your Word be known;
and through our faith-in-action,
may your word be lived. **Amen.**

Readings from the Sacred Scriptures:

Karl Wells

Exodus 20 Selected Verses - The Ten Commandments

I John 4: 7-21 Selected Verses - God is Love

A reading from the Gospels: Matthew 22:34-46

Anthem: Pray for the People

Choplin

Meditation: “Love God; Love your Neighbour – There is More”

Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

We sing: VU 658 O Love That Wilt Not let Me Go

St. Margaret

A Moment for Affirm: International Day for Older Persons 2026

“The Age of Longevity, Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives”

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: VU 543 We Give Thee But Thine Own

Franconia

Offering Prayer: Wondrous God, bless our gifts and our lives as we offer them to you for your service and for the blessing of a world with many needs. May they be magnified to the glory of your name, which is pure, abundant Love. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

We sing: VU 567 Will You Come and Follow Me

Kelvingrove

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Commissioning

Benediction: Threefold Amen

Danish

Postlude: Biblical Sonata No. 1, Parts V and VI

Kuhlau

Worship prayers today were inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2026, Year A, and words from Voices United.

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Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald (on leave)

Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter (on leave)

Interim Youth and Family Minister: Rev. Karen Thorne

Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding

Custodian: David Noseworthy

Board Chair: Jonathan Stevenson