

**October 4, 2026**  
**19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Creation Time 4**  
**Worldwide Communion Sunday**

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 in Worship today:  
Rev. Karen Thorne and Rt. Rev. Marion Pardy

Today's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of  
a precious sister, **Lynda**, from Gaston Létourneau.  
*À la mémoire de ma sœur Lynda : « Merci d'avoir été ma sœur.  
Je suis tellement reconnaissant d'avoir eu  
la chance de t'avoir dans ma vie. »*

**Bold indicates unison.**

**Rise in body and spirit as you prefer.**

**The projected text IN WHITE indicates a communal response.**

**THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

**The Life and Work of Gower**

**Voluntary:** Meditation on Londonerry Air

Bédard trad. Irish

**We Sing:** VU 642: Be Thou My Vision

Slane

**Words of Welcome:**

This morning we gather as people of many places, many journeys and many stories. We come from different homes and different traditions. Yet today Christians around the world gather around one table. From island and mountain, from city and mountain, from north and south, east and west, we come to share one bread and one cup. We gather as one people. We gather in hope. We gather in peace. We gather in the presence of Christ.

**Light of Faith:**

On this day, we gather with believers and followers across the world— one body, one table, one God.

**Though we are many, we are one, the one family of Jesus.**

We light the candle of faith to remember: Jesus is our light, Jesus is our center, Jesus is our peace.

**May this light guide us to unity, kindle our love for one another,  
and shine across every land and language. Amen.**

**Gathering Words:**

God of the earth and sea,

**You gather us from every corner of your creation.**

God of every people and nation,

**You make us one family.**

Christ, bread of life,

**Gather us around your table.**

Holy Spirit, breath of God,

**Fill us with peace.**

**May our worship today be a song of gratitude for the earth, a prayer for the world, and a celebration of the unity we share in Christ.**

**Gathering Prayer:**

Holy God, Creator of sea and soil, of mountain and meadow,  
of wind and rain, of seed and harvest,

**we give you thanks for this beautiful and fragile earth.**

For the oceans that surround us, for the fields that feed us,  
for forests and rivers, for birds that fill the morning with song,  
**we give you thanks.**

For every people and every culture, for every language & every song,  
**Teach us again to live gently upon the earth  
and generously with one another.**

Through Christ, in whom all things are reconciled.

**All: Amen.**

**We Sing:** VU 409 Morning Has Broken

Bunessan, trad. Irish

### **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

Douglas Moody

God of light and love, you meet us in the beauty of your creation and in the quiet places of our hearts.

As we listen to your Word, open our ears to hear your voice and our hearts to receive your wisdom.

May your Spirit guide us like a light upon the path, leading us ever more deeply into the way of Christ.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World. **Amen**

**A Reading from Scripture:** Genesis 1: 26-31

Douglas Moody

Creation as God's good gift.

**We Sing:** MV 79 Spirit, Open My Heart

Traditional Irish

**A Reading from Scripture:** Matthew 21:33-46

Rev. Karen Thorne

**Gospel Response:** Celtic Alleluia

**Meditation:**

Rev. Karen Thorne

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

God be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts;

**We lift them up to God,**

Let us give thanks to God!

**It is right to give God our thanks and praise!**

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

Though creation sometimes weeps,  
we wait in hope and love for you, O God.

For you breathed life into the heavens

And set the stars on their ancient paths.

You entrusted the earth to our care

and called us to gently walk upon it.

For the wonders of creation,

and for the sacred trust you have given us

**We give you thanks, O God.**

Thank you for the worldwide fellowship of disciples,  
who faithfully attempt to share your love with all creation,  
with whom we sing:

MV 203 O Holy, holy, holy God,

Kingsfold Trad. Irish

**O holy, holy, holy God,**

**O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above  
bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n,  
Creation sings your praise.**

***And bles-sed is the One who comes  
And bears your name always!***

For centuries Christians of different customs have gathered  
to commune through the sharing of this feast.  
In their partaking you have been with them,  
just as you are with us now.  
And so, we gather with our sisters and brothers,  
travelers together on the journey of faith,  
as people have gathered for generations  
around the hearth, the table, and the shared loaf.

We remember the night before Jesus died, when,  
he gathered with his friends, he took bread into his hands,  
gave thanks to God, broke it, and said:  
“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”

And after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, and said:  
“This is the new covenant; do this for the remembrance of me.”

**Blessing The Bread and the Cup**

God, we remember with grateful hearts our friend, our brother,  
our companion, Jesus, whose love lights our way and whose  
presence meets us along the journey.

For the gift of his life and the welcome of his table, we give you thanks. May your blessing be upon what we  
do here, that we may be filled by your spirit to embody, more and more, the courage and compassion of  
Christ for this hurting world. All praise be to you, now, tomorrow, and forever.

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**The Bread is Lifted and Broken, the Cup is Lifted**

The bread of life,

**Nourishes our bodies.**

The cup of blessing,

**Revives our thirsty souls.**

The gathered community,

**Strengthens our growing faith.**

Together we proclaim the mystery of our faith as we sing:

MV 204:      **Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!**

**Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus**

**The Invitation to the Table:**

Come to this table of grace. Come as you are - with joyful hearts, with hearts that are weary, with your questions,  
hopes, and longings.

For this is not a table set for the perfect, but a table of welcome and belonging.

As the generations before us found God in the turning of the seasons, in the rising and setting of the sun, in the sea  
and wind, in the welcome of a friend, so we come today to recognize Christ in our midst.

So, like travelers who follow the ancient paths, and like those who cross the sea seeking a new shore, we come to  
Christ's table.

From shore to shore, from island to island, from nation to nation, we gather as one people in God's love.

Here there is bread for the journey, a cup to share along the  
way, and a place at the table for all.

Here, at this table, the stranger becomes neighbour, neighbour becomes friend, and all are welcomed as children of God.

Across the waters and across the world, Christ gathers us into one family on this World Communion Day. Come, then, giving thanks for the goodness of God, remembering also Christ, who journeys with us, and whose love calls us home.

All are welcome here, for this is the table of Jesus Christ who invites us all to this feast. Come now, for the table is set, and all is ready.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**Sharing the Bread and Cup** (There will be 2 stations at the front of the two aisles where you may come to receive the elements. Gluten-free-crackers- are available for those who need an alternate.)

**Prayer after Communion:** Let us pray:

**We thank you for inviting us to the table and feeding us with the abundance of your blessing and grace. May we journey in the strength of this food to recognize the needs in our midst, to serve your people and in doing so, help to fulfil the kingdom within and around us here on this earth. Amen**

### **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](mailto: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:** Sing, Thanks to Our God

**Offering Prayer:** Generous God of boundless mercy and care, may our offering today make a difference in the unnoticed and unknown places where your love is most deeply needed.

**Inspire us to sustain your ministries of hope and encouragement, of peace and acceptance. Extend our service to reach the corners of our communities and our world where your presence is most needed. Amen.**

### **WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 481 Sent Forth by God's Blessing  
The Ash Grove, Trad. Welsh

**Postlude:** Highland Cathedral (Air).

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2026, Year C and Gathering, Pentecost 2, Year A.*

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

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

**Interim Youth & Young Families 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

### **WHAT'S UP AT GOWER**

**Gifts with Vision:** Give meaningful gifts that make a difference with Gifts with Vision! Each year's gift catalogue gives a glimpse of the breadth of our Mission and Service ministries and programs. Gifts with Vision have gift ideas to suit every interest, budget, and person. It's a great way to celebrate special occasions and honor loved ones! The

gift catalogue is updated online regularly and is fully refreshed every fall. You can visit <https://giftswithvision.ca/> to view online catalogue.

**Bulletin Dedications:** The Worship and Sacraments Committee invites members of our faith community to help with the cost of printing weekly bulletins. It costs us approximately \$15.00 to have color-printed bulletin covers. You may dedicate a bulletin of any Sunday in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a significant event, or in celebration of a life's milestone. The name of Memoriam/Celebration/Milestone and Donor will appear in the bulletin on the specified Sunday. Please forward any donations to the church office and contact Felyn, the office administrator, during office hours via email (gsuc@nl.rogers.com) or phone 709-753-7286 ext. 200.

# ALL OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE FOR BRIDGES TO HOPE

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ON SUNDAY MORNING OR DROP IT OFF DURING OFFICE

