

September 13, 2026
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Creation Time 1

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.



99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145
E-Mail: office@gowerunited.com Website: <https://gowerunited.com>



Leading in Worship: Rev. Karen Thorne
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 loving memory of son **Duane**. Gone but not forgotten. From **Maude** and **Chester Peach**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary : Ar Hyd y Nos

Clay Christiansen

We sing: VU 315 Holy, Holy, Holy

Nicea

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:

We light this candle as a reminder that God's goodness can be felt all around us. The sacredness of God's Creation can be seen by all who are willing to be students of the spirit.

God is good! Hallelujah!

We sing: MV 104 Know that God is Good (1 vs. 2 X - English)
tradition song: Congo

Gathering Words:

Joining with light and shade,

we will praise our God.

The blue of the sky, the glow of the beckoning dawn,
sing God's praises. With flowing water and pounding seas,

we will praise our God.

The mighty ocean, the trickling stream, proclaim their Creator's marvelous power. With hills and valleys,

we will praise our God.

With the dazzling heights, the lowest valleys,
with soaring eagle and busy ant,

we will praise our God.

Each bird, each animal, each tiny insect,
and each person of humankind makes clear

God's creative presence, and so

we will praise our God.

Gathering Prayer:

Creator of all, with every breath

we are filled with your goodness.

Fill our very being with your word and Spirit as we worship you.

Catch our breath.

Open us to experience wonder and awe.

So may Spirits will be lifted up by all that surrounds us.

This is the seventh day, like the seventh day of Creation.

It is a day for renewal and new life!

May we find rest and refreshment in our celebration
of your presence and in the wonder of creation.

Amen.

Dedication of Paraments for the Season of Creation

*Paraments for the "Season of Creation"
have been designed by Artist, Heather Reeves,
and donated by The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy,
They are dedicated
in memory and honour of
the 'faithful' of Gower Street United Church,
past and present, who valued and value the worship of God
in the beauty of holiness
within this sacred space.*

Dedication of Paraments for the "Season of Creation":

Dr. Pardy

With deep gratitude to Heather Reeves for her artistic design and crafted creation, it is my privilege to offer these Paraments for awe-some worship in this sacred space.

Commentary on the design

Heather Reeves

Dr. Pardy:

Rev. Thorne and Mr. Slaney, in memory and honour of the 'faithful' of Gower Street United, Past and Present, I present these Season of Creation 'orange' Paraments for dedication to the glory and worship of God.

Ken Slaney (Chair, Worship and Sacraments Committee):

Dr. Pardy, with gratitude, we accept your generous gift of Season of Creation Paraments. We will care for them reverently and will use them to express our love of God and the world God loves.

Rev. Thorne Act of Dedication and Prayer:

In the name of the holy and triune God,
Creator, Christ and Spirit,
we dedicate these Paraments to the glory of God.
With gratitude and reverence,
we dedicate these Paraments to the glory of God.
For the beauty of this holy place,
and for the sake of God's world,
we dedicate these Paraments to the glory of God.
In remembrance and honour of
the 'faithful' of Gower Street United Church,
we dedicate these paraments to the glory of God.
Let us pray.

Creating God, you splash our world with colour and paint all nature with love.
We thank you for these Creation Paraments,
and give you thanks for the designer, creator and donor.
May the beauty of colours and symbols in this work of art, crafted and offered in praise of you,

invite us to ponder the symbols and stories of our faith, and the rhythm of life's seasons in in your presence,
and, thus, remind us of the whole of creation,
and of you, Creator of us all. **Amen.**

We Sing: MV 30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination:

Mysterious God, tickle the places deep inside us when we receive the words of scripture. Stir our understanding with deep delight. Empower us to receive your good news with openness and wonder, as we ponder the secret of timeless realities. May your message become our hope. In the name of the One who is Infinite Love. Amen.

A reading from Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Naomi Addison

We sing: MV 79 Spirit Open My Heart

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35 Forgiven and Forgiving

Meditation

Musical Reflection: Arioso

J.S. Bach

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:

Ever-merciful God, your love never ceases to astound us. All around us, and in all seasons, are small and large signs of your greatness. From such small things as a tiny seed grow amazing plants! From our sometimes meagre offerings can grow a flourishing church community. How astounding! Bless all things great and small, so that we might live faithfully and serve you graciously. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We Sing: VU 307 Touch the Earth Lightly

Tenderness

We go out into the world:

There is a time and a season for everything.

A time to love, and a time to be loved.

A time to receive forgiveness, and a time to forgive.

May we go forth, freed from sorrow, freed from anger or grief,
As peace makers to live in hope and in joy.

**We go out with open and healing hearts
to love and to forgive others
and this world that has been created in love.**

May the grace of the God of creation, the love of Jesus,
and the power of the Holy Spirit go with you now and always.
Amen.

We sing: MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts, Vs 1

Freed

Postlude: Psalm XIX

Marcello

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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

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## WHAT'S UP AT GOWER

**We are inviting families and caregivers with young children (especially with at least one child 5 years or younger) to SIGN UP for “Faith Families Every Day” (FFED)!**

This program helps families

- become more aware of precious moments in the midst of daily life,
- take children’s sense of wonder and spirituality seriously at the age they are now,
- chat with other parents and caregivers to share ideas, your experiences for how you have noticed wonder, awe, and faith at home
- access ideas, resources and support to create meaningful habits at home around simple faith practices.
- Share a breakfast with a small group of other families ONE SUNDAY morning per month.

**FFED REVISED START-UP DATE will be ANNOUNCED shortly, as soon our room renovations and organizing can allow. Please SIGN UP to get the new date first!**

*What will happen when FFED gets together?*

\*\*\*BREAKFAST will be READY 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in the \*Gower Learners/Council Room. \*\*\*

\*\*\*9:30 – 10:30 a.m. CHILDCARE & PLAYTIME will be provided in the adjoining room

PARENTS’ and CAREGIVERS’ DISCUSSION TIME Adults will be invited to enjoy another cuppa over some guided discussion and time to share your experiences and ideas also among yourselves. There will also be some resources you can take home to try out or to adapt for your own family.

This program will be facilitated by Rev. Karen, the Minister for Youth and Young Families and supported by the Gower Children’s Education and Families Committee.

**To REGISTER or for more Information: CONTACT Rev. Karen [rev.karen@nl.rogers.com](mailto:rev.karen@nl.rogers.com) or through the Gower St. Church office at 709-753-7286. (Or [Click HERE](#))**

Gower St. United Church is one of only two congregations selected here in Canada, along with 15 church communities in the U.S., to receive FFED funding support. This is year two of a three-year initiative and research project funded through the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative (Lily Endowment, Inc.) For more: [FamilyFaithEveryDay.com](http://FamilyFaithEveryDay.com).

**The Season of Creation “Orange” Paraments  
by Artist, Heather Reeves.**

With a new church season, amongst the development of new prayers, hymns and forms of worship, we also need new visuals, with new symbols and new colours. Orange has been recommended by The United Church of Canada as the colour of the Season of Creation. That is where this design began.

Creation suggests its own symbols. New growth leads to the tree, important in many cultures as the tree of life. It also reflects the symbolic story of the Garden of Eden, known as a place of trees. This slightly abstract orange tree has leaves added to it to reinforce its symbolic use. Furthermore, though based on the early Christian symbol of the fish, the outline shape of the United Church's logo is the same as that of the leaf.

In the beginning of life that we see around us in Spring, the colours of leaves vary, but it often starts as a light-yellow green, which can be luminous with the sun behind it. It is one of the three greens used, the other two suggesting the colour changes through spring and summer, as the growth continues. Creation develops through time.

One of our rhythms of life is the cycle of the day, with the dawn bringing light and warmth after the colder dark and its time of sleep, a sometimes synonym for death. We wake refreshed and ready for new growth within God's creation. Aware of our interdependency with it, thankful for and respecting its beauty, sustenance and life-giving energy, we are humble in the face of this amazing home.