

**September 20, 2026**  
**17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Creation Two**  
**“Welcome Back!”**

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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Sharing in Worship Leadership today:  
Rev. Karen Thorne and Dr. Daryl Pullman  
**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: The Ash Grove**

**We sing:** VU 232 Joyful, Joyful

Hymn to Joy

**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 our candles today recalling the wisdom of God. God gives us wisdom in plants and animals as well as in taught knowledge and experienced knowledge. God invites us to question, to ponder, to learn, to test, to be full of wisdom. We welcome the wisdom of God revealed in all of creation.

**Gathering Words:**

How can we discover the signs of God all around us?

**We will watch and listen. We will pay attention.**

Through the voice of others, through the movement of creation,

**God still speaks!**

God's voice can be ignored but it cannot be silenced.

**Yes! May we listen for that voice as it speaks to us today!**

Creation's voice can be ignored but it cannot be silenced.

**May we listen for these voices as they speak to us today,**

What can we do in this place, in our community,  
and throughout the world? What is the first step?

**We will notice! We will pay attention! We will care!**

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

**Gathering Prayer:**

**Loving Creator, help us to feel your presence as we gather before you. As we engage the challenges and troubles in our world,**

**stay by our side. May we find new energy as we recognize that**

**we are not alone. Continue to allow us to experience the majesty of your creation, even as we tend to the mending of Creation.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**We sing:** MV 104 Know that God is Good *\*\*with percussion for children and children at heart! Gower Learners will then begin.*

### **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**Prayer of Illumination:** Spirit of Life, open our hearts and our minds to you, to recognize you through the scriptures, through our songs, and in all the words spoken today. **Amen.**

**Scripture:** Responsive Psalm 105 Pts 1, 4 (VU p.828)

**A reading from the Gospel:** Matthew 20: 1-16

What is Fair?

**Meditation** by Daryl Pullman

**Anthem:** When in Our Music God is Glorified Stanford

arr. Ziegenhals

**Gathering our Gifts:** We have received much from God and God's Creation. Let us give thanks and share so that this abundance may bring encouragement to those who are in need and equip all who are labouring towards the fulfilling of God's kindom.

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

*You can offer your financial gifts to Gower Street UC 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.*



**We sing:** Sing Thanks to our God

Amy Yea Kyong Lee

**Offering Prayer:**

Loving God, through the life you give us and the bounty within it, we encounter the amazing web of connection and interdependence.

**Bless us and our giving as we give back some of that bounty, each as we are able.**

May we find all renewed purpose in our lived day to day.

**As we give and serve and love, bless all our relationships –  
with others, with you, and with all Creation. Amen.**

**Prayers for the World, the Prayer of Jesus** (*Gower Learners return*)

**All Ages Blessing of Backpacks and Bags:**

When I am preparing for the return of old routines and the arrival of new ones,

**I will remember God's Spirit is with me.**

When I arrive at school to meet my teachers and friends,

**I will remember God's Spirit is with me.**

When I make my way to work and prepare for the tasks before me,

**I will remember God's Spirit is with me.**

When I attend to those whom God has placed within my loving care,

**I will remember God's Spirit is with me.**

Bless these backpacks and all who will use them to study, teach and care for others.

**Whatever our age, help us all to continue to learn and grow in wisdom and grace. May these tags be a small reminder of your presence with us. Amen.**

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We go out into the world:**

There is a time to praise God in community

**and a time to praise God in rest.**

Go forward, knowing there is a time to work, a time to play and rest.

**At all times, in work, at play, and at rest, we will praise God!**

**We sing:** Sing Thanks to Our God

Amy Yea Kyong Lee

**Postlude:** Postlude in D

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

*The Backpack blessing was inspired by words from Traci Smith and David Csinos in CHURCH TOGETHER: An Essential Guide to all-Age Ministry*

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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