

September 27, 2026 18th Sunday after Pentecost Creation Three/Baptism

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 today: Rev. Karen Thorne & Tony Chadwick

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 Mom and Dad, **Harrison** and **Susie Noseworthy**, on the occasion of Mom's birthday. Lovingly remembered by their daughter **Grace Kell (Noseworthy)**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Folk Song

Whitlock

We sing: VU292 Creating God, We Give You Thanks

Wareham

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: Dawn arrives later each morning, and dusk arrives earlier each evening as we head into the colorful days of Fall. Into the growing shadows of night comes an ever-bright light. Our Christ candle and other candles on our special table are a reminder that Christ is light for the world. Our candles are lit again this day, with gratitude, humility and hope.

Gathering Words:

As people who yearn for new opportunities to put our faith into action,

We give thanks for God's presence in our lives.

As a congregation that seeks to build community and to serve with a common purpose,

We give thanks for God's presence in our lives.

As individuals who seek to follow the teachings of Jesus and to make a difference in the world,

We give thanks for God's presence in our lives.

We seek to share both hope and love with others as we live our purpose and offer our service.

Thanks be to God.

Come, let us worship, in the presence of God: Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Gathering Prayer:

Gracious God,

you give us water when we are thirsty.

You forgive us when we complain.

You help us when we are at our wits' end,

always faithful, always by our side.

You send help we haven't thought to ask for,
when fear or anxiety distracts us.

**You send helpers so that we may endure
when we are too preoccupied to notice.**

You show that you have not forgotten us
even when we complain about our lot.

You are always faithful, always by our side.

For this we give thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: VU 639 One More Step Along the World I Go

(with percussion instruments for children)

THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

Jesus Blesses Little Children

13 Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; 14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Mark 10: 13-15)

Presentation of Candidates:

Bert Riggs

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church, I present:

George Russell Kachur & Thomas Douglas Kachur

Children of Michelle Elizabeth Pratt & Klay Logan Kachur

The Profession of Faith and Promises:

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others
by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice?

I do, God being my helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with your siblings in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in
creation,

and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment:

Let us pledge our support and care.

**As a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within
the**

**wider community of faith. May God grant us all
the grace to live out our baptism. Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith - A New Creed

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water:

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life,
and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation. By water comes
the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the
Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water
may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Baptism in the name of the Triune God and Marking with the Sign of the Cross:

George Russell Kachur, we baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit. **Amen.**

George, child of God, from this day forward,
you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Thomas Douglas Kachur, we baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Thomas, child of God, from this day forward,
you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Recognizing the Candle:

Bert Riggs

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

George and Thomas, may the candles lit today for you remind
us that Jesus said, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to
God." **Amen.**

Presentation to the Congregation

Declaration and Congregational Welcome:

There is one God, one faith, one baptism:

By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body.

We are children of the one God,

Mother and Father of us all.

We welcome you into the community of faith.

We listen together: VU 454 May God Who Creates You

May God who creates you give you light;

May God who sustains you make you wise;

May God who protects you give you joy,

May God who surrounds you give you peace.

(Gower Learners will then begin)

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Patient God, how easy it is for us to get distracted with idle thoughts instead of focusing on your message of hope and possibilities.

Sometimes we just can't concentrate on what is being said, and we let the activities of the rest of the day take priority.

And, as you know, Gracious God, some sermons take a long time getting to the key point and our minds wander.

Help us to receive what you would have us receive and focus on what is important to you.

We are coming to you, ready to welcome your message of challenge and inspiration. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

A reading from the Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-17

Mark Peters

Water flows from the rock for thirsty people in the desert

A reading from the Gospels: Matthew 21: 23-32

By what authority does Jesus act and teach?

Anthem: Here I Am, Lord

Schutte

Meditation:

Tony Chadwick

We sing: MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name

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. A new "Tap" machine can also be used with a bank or credit card. 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: Sing, Thanks to Our God

Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, your gifts have been showered upon us, but your gifts are not for ourselves alone.

Your gifts are meant to be shared, a response of love, joy and generosity.

Bless the gifts offered this day and through the past week.

Bless also the givers and the recipients so that we may all know your love and grace. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 421 Lead on, O Cloud of Presence

Lancashire

We go out into the world:

May the love and wisdom of the God who made us lead us through this coming week.

May the power and mercy of the Lord Jesus who loves us bring us strength.

And may the joy of the Holy Spirit in all that has been and all is being created fill our hearts, today and always.

We go now in peace. Amen.

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2026, 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