



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, October 1, 2023

Truth & Reconciliation Sunday

Leading Worship: Affirming Ministry Group &
Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Reader: Ruth Orola



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"Part of the struggle has to do with learning to walk together again.
It means being as open as we can.
You bring a gift that I don't have; I bring a gift that you may not have.
And as we share, we learn from the gifts that we have been given."
— Alf Dumont*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #411 *O God We Call*
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: On this Truth & Reconciliation Sunday
we come together in this sacred time and place.
ALL: We come in the presence of ancestors.
ONE: We come connected by a longing for peace and healing.
ALL: We come with hearts open and ready for reconciliation.
ONE: We come ready to acknowledge the injustices of the past.
ALL: We come with ears open to hear the stories.
ONE: We come ready to act for justice.
ALL: We come with mouths open to speak the truth.
ONE: Come, let us allow the Spirit
to transform our lives, our church and our world.
Written by Annette Taylor

Opening Hymn: VU #371 *Open My Eyes*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

Vibrant God, your creation explodes
with the colours of the rainbow
and Your peoples reveal the beauty of diversity.

We remember today a time when
the joy and dignity of a precious child
was destroyed.
We lament today for the childhoods lost
through the residential school system.
We mourn for the spirits crushed
and the futures compromised.
Help us to celebrate the hope and joy of every child.
Help us to build the bonds of solidarity and connection
to ensure “never again” is realized.

Adapted from [Kairos Canada](#)

The Lord’s Prayer

WORD

Hymn: MV #195 *Long Ago and Far Away* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #195 *Long Ago and Far Away* (verse 3)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Galatians 3:23-28

ONE: We read this text so that in them we may find wisdom for life.

ALL: May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Minute for Mission: *Listening and Learning on the Path to Reconciliation*

Video: *The Moderator’s Orange Shirt Day Message*

Reflection: *Learning to Walk Together*

RESPONSE

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

Bless these gifts we offer, O God,
shaping them to bring
life, beauty and colour
to the greys of life,
rooting them in movements
for justice and peace,
branching them throughout the world
in loving partnership,

**invigorating them by the rainbow
of our sharing and caring.**

Amen.

Written by Gord Dunbar, *Gathering Pentecost 2*, page 39.

Choral Offering: *Come to the Banquet*

– words & music by Joseph M. Martin

Celebration of Communion

Closing Hymn: MV #150 *Spirit God, Be Our Breath*

(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Go In Love*

– Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig, Music by Don Besig

Postlude

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland

Living Skies Regional Council

Regina Native Outreach Ministry

Rosetown

Regina: St. James

Saskatoon: St. David's Trinity

Lectionary Readings for October 8, 2023

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Psalms 65 (VU pp. 782-783)

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Luke 17:11-19

Worship Schedule

Oct 8 *Thanksgiving Sunday* - Rev. Annette Taylor

Oct 15 *What's in a Translation?* - Eva Stanley

Oct 22 *Caesar's Coin* - Rev. Annette Taylor

Oct 29 *All Saints Sunday* - Rev. Annette Taylor

The Moderator's Orange Shirt Day Message



Moderator Carmen Lansdowne urges us to commemorate the [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#), also known as Orange Shirt Day, on September 30. This is a day to reflect, pray, learn, and honour survivors, their families, and the communities affected by Indian Residential Schools and those who operated them. For non-Indigenous Christians in particular, this is a time to reflect on their role in colonialism and the ongoing responsibility to make reparations.

One way that we can show Indigenous youth that they matter is by investing in the [Waaase-Aabin program](#), which awards scholarships to post-secondary Indigenous students, ages 18-29, who demonstrate economic need and academic excellence.

On September 30, and every day, we must remember that every child matters.

Watch or download the Moderator's Orange Shirt Day message in [English](#) or [français](#).

[Video still: The United Church of Canada/ Moderator Carmen Lansdowne]

Statement on Information Shared by the Stó:lō Nation



(This information may be traumatic for residential school survivors, families, and communities. If you are feeling pain or distress, please call the free 24-hour crisis line: 1-866-925-4419. You can also call the First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line at 1-855-242-3310. It's toll-free and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.)

Early truths were shared by the Stó:lō Nation last week. The United Church of Canada, which ran the Coqualeetza residential institution from 1925 to 1940, acknowledges and is saddened by what we have heard.

Read the [full statement](#) from The United Church of Canada.

[Image credit: fotoco-istock]
