

**Orange Shirt Day
Prayer Resource**



As we Pray...

May we take time to reflect on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30). This day, also known as Orange Shirt Day, has held sacred space to speak truth and share in the unjust reality that has faced Indigenous Peoples in this land we now call Canada. Within Canada, the Indian Residential School System was created to 'get rid of the Indian problem.'

This year, the painful reality of unmarked graves was brought to nationwide attention- a truth that our Indigenous elders have spoken about for generations.

Please take time this week to pray. To pray for wisdom and understanding. To pray for broken promises and injustices that continue to face Indigenous communities. To pray for systems to change and courage to speak out in solidarity.

May our prayers rise together- may we walk gently upon this land.
May our Creator show us the path of healing.



We look up to the sky...

and acknowledge Creator, the Giver of Life. You are the beginning and in you, all things belong. The birds of the air, the four legged creatures, the flowers, the trees, each one of us. We thank you Giver of Life.

Activity: Begin to write a gratitude list. Each day begin to think about three things you are thankful for. It could be people, something in nature or even an act of kindness- begin to see how Creator is at work all around us.

Pray for:

- Restored respect and dignity to Indigenous peoples:
 - i. Gaps within the healthcare system for Indigenous peoples
(Call to Action 18 & 19)
 - ii. Over- representation of Indigenous peoples in custody
(Call to Action 25-42)



We look inward...

holding our hand on our chest. We think of the ones who came before us. Throughout history, Indigenous peoples were relocated from their homes, forbidden to speak their language or participate in spiritual ceremonies, faced broken treaties and unmet promises. Sit with this reality...

Activity: Hold a rock in your hand. Feel its weight press against your palm. Run your fingers over the surface. Indigenous peoples are strong and resilient- their stories offer a foundation of truth so that we can move toward reconciliation. As you hold this rock- think about one truth you have learned about Residential Schools and how you can share that with someone else.

Pray for:

- Cultural/ Language Revitalization Programs (Call to Action 14)
- Indigenous Youth within the Foster Care System
(Call to Action 1-5)



We look to the ground below us...

We realize the great gift of the land. We are thankful for the things she offers, food, shelter, medicines, clothing, and so much more. May we always remember to be good children, taking only what we need and protecting what we have.

Activity: Take a few moments and stand in your backyard or a green space. If you can, take off your shoes and feel the land beneath your feet. Think about how creation provides for you. Reflect on how the land has been abused by over resourcing and become merely a resource.

Pray for:

- Indigenous Land and Treaty Rights (Call to Action 45)

Examples: Mi'kmaq Lobster Fishing (Moderate Livelihood)

1492 Land Back Lane

Wet'suwet'en pipeline

Clean Water Crisis



We turn to the East...

In the East, we welcome the rising Sun- it also signifies the beginning of life- the beginning of your story. In Mi'kmaw there is a phrase that describes our connection with creation around us- msit no'kmaq (all my relations). When we work in harmony with each other, walking together and recognizing our unique gifts, we begin to recognize our place in this world, never forgetting that our story intersects with creation around us.

Activity: Trace out your handprint. Reconciliation is difficult, it requires commitment and a dedication to revealing the truth, no matter how painful. We each have a role to play in our church's journey towards reconciliation. Within the handprint write something tangible you can do.

Pray for:

- Ongoing engagement with the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (in your life, your community and your church)
- What steps you can take to help implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Call to Action 48)



We turn to the South...

it is the direction of the warm sun and new growth. It is a place where we receive openly the gift of wisdom and learning. We invite the warm breeze of compassion to wash over us so that we can learn to walk the path of reconciliation in a good way. May we continue to learn the stories on the lands we now inhabit in our search for the truth.

Activities: Read or Watch about Residential Schools (a list of recommendations can be found on www.SAministryhelps.ca).

Pray for:

- Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers. (Because of colonization they have been discredited and left out of important conversations)
- Indigenous partnerships/ collaborations



We turn to the West...

This is the direction of our youth. In them we see strength and determination, for they offer us vision and renewed hope for reconciliation. It is also the direction of the setting sun- the end of one day with the knowledge that a new day is coming.

Activity: Read Calls to Actions #58-61 in the TRC. Reflect on what it means for the future of the church. Begin to list out what a church focused on Truth and Reconciliation can look like.

Pray for:

- Church leaders as they commit to the journey of reconciliation
(Call to Action 59)
- An Indigenous educational framework that can educate cadets, officers, employees, volunteers, and congregational members
(Call to Action 59 & 60)



We turn to the North...

and acknowledge the cool and refreshing breeze. From the north we experience the pangs of death and the hope for renewal. As the unmarked graves of children are being brought to light across this land now known as Canada, we must also realize the countless injustices that continue to face Indigenous communities. May this be a time for change- may this be a time for hope.

Activity: Take a moment to listen and reflect on the song "215| A Lament by Brian Doerkson & Cheryl Bear

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7ksfOd8yHo>)

Light a candle for the children who have been found and for those who are still missing.

Pray for

- Grieving families and communities as Indigenous children continue to be found in unmarked graves.
- Funding and resources to be allocated for further study into finding missing children (Call to Action 71-76)
- Justice for Missing and Murdered Women, Girls, 2 Spirit (Call to Action 41)

