

Worship Service:

Praying and Responding, as well as wearing, Orange Shirts

Prelude: I'll Not Turn Back (649/P490)

Words of Welcome: We begin today by acknowledging the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning....*insert appropriately based on church's location*... As we worship today, we acknowledge with deep respect the Original Peoples of this land.

As we look around our worship today we see many orange shirts. Orange Shirt day was inspired by Phyllis Jack Webstad's experience. On her first day at residential school in 1973, Phyllis was stripped of her new orange shirt, a shirt that had brought her a sense of affirmation and dignity. On September 30th, Canadians are asked to wear orange to remember and stand in solidarity with the children and communities affected by the Indian Residential School System. However, we need to do more than wear orange. As Christians we are called to live lives of worship. Amos 5:24 says: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Throughout this worship service we will remember, we will repent and we will respond to the call to live with open hearts for all who call Turtle Island their home.

Adapted from:

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/spirited-reflection-orange-shirt-day>

Entering Into Worship: Who Can Sound The Depths of Sorrow vv. 1-3 (1004/B933)

Responsive Reading: Inspired by Kaleikoa Ka'eo and Psalm 96:7-13

One Voice: We give you the Lord, all families of the nations—glory and power!
We give glory to your name and enter your courtyard!

Many Voices: We bow to you Lord, in your holy splendour!

One Voice: We hear you tell us that you rule, that you set our world firmly in place!
We hear you proclaim that you will judge all people fairly!

Many Voices: The heavens celebrate, the earth rejoices, the sea and everything in it roars!

One Voice: We claim the promise of "all my relations" when we proclaim:
Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate! Let the trees of the forest shout
out joyfully as well.

Many Voices: You are coming Lord! You will establish justice on the earth!
You will establish justice in the world rightly.
You will establish justice among all people fairly.

One Voice: In tension we hear these words cry out to us:
If the land is hurt, we are hurt as a people.
If the land produces, we produce as a people.
If we are kept off the land, we are kept away from who we really are.
But as we return to the land, we return to who we really are as a people.

All Voices: As Canadians gathered in worship today, we commit to do more than sing songs. We
commit to have our eyes opened to see in justice, our ears attentive to hear the
calling of those who suffer, and our hands committed to be active in restoring your
justice, the justice that treats the world rightly and the people fairly.



Orange Shirt Day
September 30th

Prepared by: Major Corrine Cameron
Assistant Principal CFOT



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Song of Response: Who Can Sound The Depths of Sorrow vv. 4-5 (1004/B933)

Prayer of Confession:

Vibrant God, Your creation explodes with the colours of the rainbow
Your peoples reveal the beauty of diversity
We remember today 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.
Celebrate the hope and joy of every child
Tell the stories of resistance that make us stronger
Build the bonds of solidarity to ensure “never again”
In the name of the one who was child among us, Amen.

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Two Minutes of Silence: Please stand and hold two minutes of silence to remember the lives that were lost, the communities that were broken, the victims still crying out for justice and the hidden legacy impact on the children raised by parents who were not parented themselves.

Song of Response: God of Justice (Tim Hughes) – Music Team

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:13-15

Message: Reimagining Jesus' Invitation to Suffer the Little Children

Opening Story: Secret Path or other individual's story of Residential School

Keys to Remember:

- “This incident emphasizes the importance of showing respect and honour to those whom society does not respect.”
 - o This was particularly the case in terms of Canada's treatment of First Nation, Métis and Inuit families
- In Ancient-Israelite society children were not regarded as important
- The disciples assumed Jesus was too important to ‘waste his time with them...’
 - o Residential school and the Sixties Scoop occurred because of assumptions made about children, families, and communities
- But Jesus took the time to show special concern for children
- “The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”
 - o What would Jesus say about these schools?
 - o What would Jesus' response be to the number of children still disproportionately placed out of their homes?



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Reflection: Gentle Jesus (583/P250)

As we sing this song, consider the children who did not encounter the gentleness of Jesus, instead encountered trauma, abuse and victimization that robbed them of their childhood and innocence.

Sending Forth Claiming the Strength of the Lord for Orange Shirt Day:

Joy of the Lord Is My Strength, Rend Collective (music team)

Benediction: Freedom Road

Treaty people know from history the path of freedom teaches this wisdom:

Ironically, we're only free to be when we've committed another's freedom

A curse, conversely, falls on those who wend a selfish way, betray a trust forsaken.

For covenant is holy and extends till all has been restored that once was taken.

The narrow way, the strait of the Great Spirit, the way the ancients knew the meaning of

Our better angels know we need to not fear it.

The best of angels speak the truth of love:

We'll come to see the healing of the nations – if we first learn to live our declarations. Amen.

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So as not to disturb the flow of service we ask that offering plates be placed to gather tithes and offerings as people leave the sanctuary. We ask that announcements be placed on a slide show and not spoken in the service.

Resources:

Africa Bible Commentary. Edited by Tokunboh Adeyemo. Zondervan, 2006.

"Orange Shirt Day" Accessed from: <https://www.kairosCanada.org/spirited-reflection-orange-shirt-day>

Wrongs to Rights: How Churches Can Engage The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Intotemak, Special 2016 Edition.



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