

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

September 27, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Today is **Orange Shirt Day** – the United Church of Canada remembers Indigenous children who attended Residential Schools in Canada. We acknowledge the culture that was erased, and we recognize the trauma that survivors carry in their hearts.

Music Prelude

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

We are gathered on the treaty territory of the Huron Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people and their ancestors. May we honour their history, spirituality, culture and teachings and uphold our responsibilities as treaty partners.

A Prayer for Orange Shirt Day

Today we wear orange to remember and honour all the Indigenous children who went to Residential Schools. Today we wear orange and we pray for the Residential School and intergenerational survivors who are still struggling. Today we wear orange and we are thankful for those who speak the truth, and who work to shine a light on injustice. Today we wear orange in the name of compassion and the spirit of truth and reconciliation. Help us, God, to remember and act on this every day. Amen.

(<https://www.united-church.ca/news/orange-shirt-day-2020>)

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle:

In the dawn's cool glow; in the bright of the day, in the evening's painted sky, in nighttime's starry dark,

**the Christ Light shines,
made bright by God's love for all!**

(Written by Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights United Church, Vancouver, B.C., Gathering Pentecost 2 2015, page 30. Used with permission.)

Call to Worship:

Here we come to experience the presence of God.

Here we seek to be inspired for the week ahead.

Here we enter to look for ways to be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Here we gather:

to feel the winds of God,

to sense the power of the Spirit,

to find the truth of Christ for our lives.

(Written by Bill Steadman, St. Andrew's United Church, Sudbury, Ont., Gathering Pentecost 2 2015, page 31. Used with permission.)

Opening Prayer:

For this little time,

would you help us to find

a moment of peace, God?

Would you help us

to turn off our wrestling and our struggle,

and help us to simply be?

We'll pick up our wrestling again –

but, for just a bit,

help us to breathe.

Help us to be.

(silent prayer)

Amen.

(Written by Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights United Church, Vancouver, B.C., Gathering Pentecost 2 2015, page 35. Used with permission.)

Candle Lighting

A time of silence

Music for Meditation

A time of silence

A 'Minute for Mission' for the Mission and Service Fund

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Prayer before the Scriptures:

God of Moses and Miriam,

God of all our journeys,
in the dry places of our lives,
we thirst for meaning, for justice,
but most of all, for your presence.
Be with us now in our worship,
as we seek the living waters
of your Word for us today. Amen.

(Written by Wanda Winfield, Blenheim United church, Blenheim, Ont., Gathering Pentecost 2 2017, page 37. Used with permission.)

Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon: Changing Your Mind

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Music Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us, whether in person or on line. We look forward to joining with you again next week!