

Centennial United Church, Stayner

Sunday, September 27, 2026 10:30am

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day

"Becoming God's People" Exodus Sermon Series

Worship Leader: Jennifer Irving

Musical Accompanist: June Flynn

Key Question: Where do we look when our resources and confidence run out?

God's People Gather in Hope

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Sharing Our Life & Work and Our Joys & Sorrows

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

One: God, The Creator made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

ALL: God made us as people, as communities, and as families.

One: God intended for us to grow and flourish together.

ALL: God commanded us to do good works, to be generous, and to build a good life for all people.

One: And so we come to this time of worship, mindful of the ways Truth and Reconciliation are woven together. Some of us wear orange today to say we did not always experience what you want for us, because there were children taken from families and communities against their will. Some of us wear orange today to say that Every Child Matters, and that we want to create a future that values all Indigenous peoples.

ALL: As we lift our prayers, listen to wisdom, and give space to all our hearts are holding may we feel the power of God's creating Spirit moving around us.

Sara Stratton, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator. Adapted.

Found on <https://united-church.ca/prayers/prayer-we-wear-orange>

Prayer of Adoration & The Lord's Prayer

Our prayers today are not simple expressions of hope, our orange shirts not simply a sign of our hope for justice, they are our continued commitment to building a safe and loving community.

Creator, God, Source of Love, we yearn to continue on this path of healing and the building of good relations with our Indigenous siblings and cousins. Give us a sense of justice so we can grow closer together as Your people, one who work together just as we pray together the one prayer your son taught us saying:

*O Great Spirit, our Father from above,
we honor your name as sacred and holy.*

*Bring your good road to us,
where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above
is reflected in the earth below.*

*Provide for us day by day--
the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.*

*All the things we need for each day.
Release us from the things we have done wrong,
in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.*

*Guide us away from the things that tempt us
to stray from your good road,
and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.*

Aho! May it be so!

From First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament.

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Hymn VU #218 “We Praise You, O God”

Time of Wondering

Hymn VU #365 “Jesus Loves Me”

Prayer Seeking and Committing to Reconciliation (in unison)

Creator, God, Source of Love, guide us in Your mercy that ancient and not so ancient wrongs may be righted, that broken promises might be fixed, and a new way forward, a good way forward, may be forged. Forgive those moments we are closed up and move among us opening our minds, our mouths, our hearts, our whole being to Your healing presence. Hear us as we pray, as we confess our own lack of understanding, fear, and judgment, and move in us as we recommit ourselves to the on-going work of reconciliation. *(continued next page)*

Draw us forward with the strength, compassion and courage needed to give ourselves over to the ministry of reconciliation that You call us to. *(Silent prayers of confession)* This we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

One: The beautiful thing about God's mercy is that it is never ending and it is for everyone. As we confess we also are healed and for this we may know peace

ALL: With God's healing love upon us we can begin to heal as a community. Thanks be to God for the freedom this offers us.

*Adapted from a Prayer found in "Worship in the Vision of New Agape"
published by the Anglican Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee
and Anglican Church of Indigenous People in 2001*

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Sung Response VU #958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Scripture Readings: Exodus 17:1-7 (OT p 74)

Psalm 78 (VU p. 792)

Matthew 21:23-32 (NT p)

Reflection "When the Well Runs Dry" Elder Liz Settee

God's People Respond in Hope

Hymn VU #559 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Stories of Gratitude & Generosity & An Invitation to Give

Offering Hymn VU #541 "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

Dedication of the Offering *(in unison)*

With hope we gather, with joy we serve, with peace we pray and with faith we respond. This offering God is our hope, joy, peace, and faith, given back to this ministry. Bless it, bless us, bless those whom these gifts will reach. Amen.

Four Directions Prayer

Closing Hymn VU #678 "For the Healing of the Nations"

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Sending Forth "Go Now in Peace"

Thank you to Neelah Irving for our live-stream and PowerPoint
Thank you to Greta Horton for reading scripture and our M&S Story
Thank you to June Flynn for leading music this morning!

Zoom: 862 4551 6433 pwd: WORSHIP

We commit to the journey of right relationship which includes ongoing learning and action with our lives and faith.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

WELCOME TO WORSHIP IN OUR SANCTUARY!

As always thank you for not wearing scented products.

ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE HOURS! Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 – 1.

ORANGE SHIRT SUNDAY September 27th you are invited to wear an Orange Shirt to worship as we honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with our Service. We will be blessed with a recorded reflection by Indigenous Elder Liz Settee from Prince Albert, SK.

AND THERE'S A WINNER! The Spoon Stealer by Lesley Crewe is the book recommended for ALL CENTENNIAL READS. It is available from the library and Valerie Willock is willing to loan out a copy if you are interested in borrowing. A great read!

LOOKING FOR SOME HELP! With Olyndra and Hannah both off at University we're looking for another volunteer to teach Sunday School one Sunday a month. Talk to Donna Nadolny if you are interested!

SIP 'n' SERVE! Join us Monday mornings at 9:00 AM. All cleaners are rewarded with coffee and conversation!

LOOKING FOR READERS! Sign up for scripture and M&S story readers is ready at the back. Thanks to all those willing to contribute to our services in this way.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Round Room.

CENTENNIAL WOMEN GATHER TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AT NOON at Janice Have's home (71 Greenway Dr, off Klondike Park Rd in the community of Country Meadows. There will be a sign at the end of the driveway). Parking will be in designated areas and there will be someone on site to help. Car pooling may be a good option! Brief tour of Inuit and Indigenous art and carvings. Lunch will be provided (let us know of dietary needs) followed by a meeting. **Please RSVP** to Janice by phone (705-429-3530) or email (janicehave53@gmail.com) Look forward to seeing everyone!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2 PM planning for our annual Thanksgiving Walk or a Fall Colour Tour — let Jennifer know which you would prefer to participate in!

UCW of Western Ontario Waterways Invites You to: “Sing a New Song to the Lord!” An in-person / online gathering Monday October 5, 2026, at Grace United, Hanover 310 12th Street, Hanover. Pre-register by Sept 28: To sign up email ucw.wow@gmail.com or call Margot 519-404-2165. Jennifer will be attending and is happy to provide a ride for anyone who would like to join her.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 Grace United Church in Barrie (350 Grove St E) is hosting a roast beef harvest dinner. 75 tickets are available for in person dining, 2 seatings (5 PM or 6:15 PM). Takeout pick up times are 4:30 – 5 PM, or 5:30 – 6 PM. Tickets are \$30. Call 705-734-0760.

MARK THE DATES! Western Ontario Waterways Fall Regional Council meeting is **Thursday, October 29 and Friday, October 30, 6:30 – 9 PM**. This will be a virtual meeting. A learning session to provide background for proposals and a Remit 2 vote will take place October 27. Registration opens September 30.

This week’s regional prayers are for Grenfell United Church in Utopia.