

Strathearn United Church

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**National Day
for
Truth
and
Reconciliation**

Our Living Statement... Strathearn United Church is a loving Christian community living by faith and action, communicating through worship, education, fellowship and outreach, greeting the future with hope.

Minister	Rev. Sandy Ferguson
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Dr. Don Mayne
Music Director	Kathryn Wood
Musician	Shannon Hiebert
Office Administrator	Rena Spiess
Custodian	Rup, Coverall Services

PRAYER CYCLE OF THE WEEK

Our Family: Gladys & H.L. McGregor, Gertrude Meakin, Gordon McLeod & Family, Irene Obrok

Within Strathearn: Finance

Northern Spirit: Hinton PC; Robertson-Wesley PC

World Council of Churches: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

Strathearn United Church welcomes you to our Morning Worship on this 28th of September 2025.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME & GATHERING

TREATY AND LAND RECOGNITION

We, the congregation of Strathearn United Church are situated on Treaty 6, traditional lands of the First Nations and the Metis People.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

One: This is no ordinary place: this is the house of God.
This is the place where the prophets cry out for peace and justice and righteousness. It is the place where God reaches down into the corners of our lives, to offer us the mystery of holy love. This is no ordinary gathering. This is no ordinary place: this is the house of God.

OPENING HYMN: “Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise” VU264

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise;
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee!

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

One: 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 this every day. Amen.

A UNITED CHURCH CREED

All: We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating. Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new. Who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church. To celebrate God's presence. To live with respect in Creation. To love and serve others. To seek justice and resist evil. To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

1 Out of the depths, O God, we call to you. VU611
Wounds of the past remain, affecting all we do.
Facing our lives, we need your love so much.
Here in this community, heal us by your touch.

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The church is best served when we all recognize what we are and aren't afraid to admit our sinfulness and humble ourselves. -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You, in thought, word, and deed, By what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with all our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend, what we are and direct what we shall be, That we may delight in your will and walk in your ways; through Jesus Christ. (Silence)

One: God have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

One: God have mercy. Let us pray together...

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: "Psalm 91 On Eagle's Wings" VU808

1 You who dwell in the shelter of our God, who abide in this shadow for life, say to the Lord: "My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust."

R "And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand."

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear: under God's wings your refuge, God's faithfulness your shield. **R**

3 You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. **R**

4 For to God's angels is given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. **R**

"And hold you, hold you in the palm of my hand."

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WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

O God, open our hearts and minds through the touch of Your Holy Spirit, so as we listen to Your Word, we may be guided what You are saying to us today. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING: 1ST TIMOTHY 6:6-12

One: Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

All: But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

One: For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

All: But as for you, people of God, shun all this, instead pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.

One: Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH 32:6-15

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

THE WORD OF GOD ENACTED

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

VU541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love made known: Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

The Dedication of Gifts:

One: God, You bless us with gifts of time, talent and treasure and in doing so, You invite us to share these gifts as a witness to our faith in Your Kingdom. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

One: God, we thank You that You do hear our prayers. Grant us the grace to be part of Your answer in the world. God through our prayer we give You thanks For the blessings You share with us. And the presence of Your love in the people who touch our lives. In this time of silence we bring to You the names of those who have been the witnesses to Your care for us. (Silence) God as we celebrate the hope of new life through resurrection, we pray for Your presence among us as we struggle with the reality of our broken world. We pray for those who struggle. For those who suffer. Those who yearn for hope. In the midst of war, we yearn and pray for peace. We pray that the leaders of nations will work together to serve a world in need, and that they learn from the example of those who have served. And God we come to You with the prayers of our hearts. For those who we know who struggle with illness of the mind, body and spirit. For those who are alone. For those who yearn for connection. These names we bring to you. (Silence) Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "For the Healing of the Nations" VU678

- 1 For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords. To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.
- 2 Lead us forward into freedom, from despair your world release; that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may

come and go in peace. Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

- 3 All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned: pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.
- 4 You, Creator-God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind; that, by our response and service, earth its destiny may find.

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SENDING FORTH:

One: Go into the world as the people of God. To be living witnesses to the grace of God. And in doing so help to create the Kingdom of God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee & Conversation Hosts: *(In the Junior Room)*

Sep 28: *Orange Shirt Sunday* - No Coffee

Oct 5: Property & Facilities / Finance

Oct 12: *Thanksgiving* – No Coffee

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, **October 4**, at 9:00 am at Newcastle Kitchen & Bar. Please call Gerry at 780-465-2047. Newcomers welcome!

The Ladies Lunch: Friday, **October 10**, at 11:30 am at Ricky's All Day Grill, Mill Creek. Please RSVP Jo-Anne at 780-965-9294 by Sept 8.