

Order of Worship—September 26, 2021

Gathering

9:30: Hymn practice with Angela and tiny choir

9:55: Ring Gong to invite people to settle in seats and prepare for worship

Prelude: Angela Chu and Ruth Francis Lyster

Welcome

Hymn:

**The Spirit in Me greets the Spirit in You, Alleluia
God's in us and we're in God, Alleluia.**

Candle Lighting

Land Acknowledgment

Opening Prayer

Hymn: MV 12 Come Touch Our Hearts

Scripture: Mark 9: 30-37

Hymn: VU 365 Jesus Loves Me

Reflection: A Small Voice Whispers

Prayers for the Children: *(from the Indigenous Ministries of the United Church of Canada for the Memorial Register honouring children who died at residential schools launched on Sept. 30, 2019)*

Great and Heavenly Spirit,
God of compassion, healing and comfort,
We lift up in prayer the sacred lives of the children, some now known to us, all known to you, who died in residential schools.
We lift up in prayer the sacred lives of the children who went missing from these schools and whose fates are unknown to those who held them most dear.
We grieve the loss of so many thousands of these little ones, and we grieve especially their loss so far away from home.
We grieve the loss of youth with so much potential. These were children of this place, children of our land. The loss of their giftedness is our collective loss.
We lament how long their families have had to live with unanswered questions.
Hear our prayers:
for those who were not informed of their children's deaths at all, or on a timely basis;



for those who were not told of where their daughters and sons had been buried; for those who have long hoped that a child who went missing somehow survived and had a good life—even as they may have also feared the worst.

We lament our complicity in the loss of these children. As members of a church which ran residential schools, we seek your help as we look to redress the many ways in which our church failed these Indigenous children, their families, and their communities. We pray that your reconciling love will teach us how to create true bonds of community and understanding as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples today.

We lift up with gratitude the efforts of all those who are seeking to honour the lives of the children who died, as well as the children whose fates are unknown, through ongoing research and acts of remembrance.

We ask for your continued guidance of them as they work to uncover the stories of the lost. We understand how precious this information is, and how vital it is to the healing of so many families and communities.

Bless those who are preparing to honour the children with sacred ceremonies and those who work to protect burial sites, in keeping with the traditions of Indigenous peoples across this land.

We pray for the families of these children and for all who loved them. Envelop them in the warmth of your infinite care and give them peace.

Inspire all of us with energy, wisdom, and commitment to the loving pursuit of the truth which will heal all of us in our brokenness and lead to reconciliation with our neighbours across this land.

Amen.

Offering

Hymn: MV 79 Spirit, Open My Heart (vs. 1,2)

Prayers of the People: Scott

Lord's Prayer, sung: VU 959

Hymn: MV 212 Sent Out in Jesus' Name

Blessing

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Worship Leaders: Rev. Janice Young, Rev. Scott Swanson,

Scripture Reader: Anna Paton

Musicians: Angela Chu, Ruth Francis Lyster

Singers: Raquel Merriman, Gillian Cole and John Leighton

Flowers: Claudia Semaniuk