



## First Presbyterian Church

Truth & Reconciliation (Orange Shirt) Sunday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

The 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

(The Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation)

Minister: **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

Director of Music: **Kathleen Howard**

Reader: **Tamara Chapman**

**Welcome to worship!**

### Information for In-Person Worship

- \* **ACCESSIBLE WASHROOM FACILITIES** for all people are available on the Sanctuary level. These washrooms are found through the doors behind the Choir Loft - right turn - straight ahead. Please feel free to use these washrooms whenever necessary!
- \* **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** – Following the Children's Message, the children are invited to join Denise Kent (Church School Coordinator) and Max Chapman (Church School Assistant) for a time of fun, games, and faith-centered activities in the Lower Hall.
- \* **HEARING IN THE SANCTUARY** - First Church has available a system of FM RECEIVERS and HEADSETS. They are for use by those who find it difficult to hear in the Sanctuary. If you would like to use one this morning, please speak with our Sound Technician.
- \* **COFFEE HOUR** – Due to the Sunday Supper being prepared and served this afternoon in the Church Hall, there will be **NO Coffee Hour following Worship**. Please join us next Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and follow your nose to delicious treats and stimulating conversation. To volunteer to host, bake, or bring food to any coffee hour sign the sheet in the Church Hall or call Tamara Chapman.
- \* **PLEASE NOTE – DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?** If you do, the Greeters are the appropriate people to go to for ALL questions and assistance with the elevator, water, washrooms, bulletins, etc.

### ASSISTING YOU THIS MORNING

Greeter: Janet LeBrun      Elevator: Francis LeBrun

Sound and Video Team – Quentin Robinson, Michel LaBonte

Mark Leslie and Kade LeBrun

- \* Our website and social media accounts:

<https://pccweb.ca/firstchurch-brockville/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Firstkirk/>

[www.instagram.com/firstpresbrockville/](http://www.instagram.com/firstpresbrockville/) <https://twitter.com/firstkirk>

- \* YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/streams>

- \* **Cogeco/Channel 10/700 Services** every Sunday at 7 am. and 5:30 pm.

- \* **For pastoral care or assistance**, please call the Church Office at 613-345-5014 or 613-340-3310. You may also call or text Reverend Marianne at 613-449-5042.

### **NEED A RIDE?**

#### **Call Executive Taxi!**

A free service provided by  
your M.O.V.E. Committee



*the people of God gather....*

Organ Prelude:

Siyahamba

*Zulu Melody – arr. John Carter*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship God:

Minister: Come, let us worship the God who calls us to listen and to learn.

**People: We come with humble hearts and spirits.**

Minister: On this Orange Shirt Sunday, God calls us to remember the children who were taken from their families and communities, and to honour the survivors whose stories continue to teach us.

**People: We come to remember, to lament, and to seek the way of reconciliation.**

Minister: God calls us to care for the earth, our common home, and all creatures who share it with us.

**People: We come to receive creation as God's gift and to accept our calling to care for it. Let us worship God, whose justice, mercy and love are for all creation.**

Opening Hymn # 433:

All creatures of our God and King

*Words & Music: Public Domain*

1. All creatures of our God and King

lift up your voice and with us sing:

sing praises, hallelujah!

O brother sun with golden beam,

O sister moon with silver gleam,

sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

2. Wild rushing wind, unbounded, strong,

high clouds that sail in heaven along:

sing praises, hallelujah!

New rising dawn in praise rejoice,

kind lights of evening, find a voice:

sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

3. Deep flowing water, pure and clear,

make music for your God to hear:

sing praises, hallelujah!

Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,

pierce now the dark with heat and light:  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

4. Dear mother earth, who day by day  
brings forth your blessings on our way:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All flowers and fruit that in you grow,  
let them God's glory also show:  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

5. Let everyone of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take their part:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear,  
give God your burdens and your care:  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

6. Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

### Prayer As We Approach God:

**Minister:** Faithful and loving God, you are the giver of every good gift: the breath in our lungs, the water that sustains us, the soil that feeds us, the creatures with whom we share this earth, and the people who surround us in families and communities.

**People:** We come before you today with gratitude, but also with humility.

**Minister:** We know that we have not always lived according to your ways. We have sometimes been more concerned with saying the right things than with doing what is right.

**People:** As we remember the children who suffered in residential schools, including those schools operated by our own Presbyterian Church in Canada, help us to listen honestly to the truth of what happened.

**Minister:** As we celebrate in this Season of Creation, help us to see where our choices have harmed the earth and where we have failed to care for the land, the air, and the water.

**People:** Open our hearts today. Make us ready to hear your Word, ready to confess, ready to learn, and ready to act. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

**The Chancel Choir Introit:** **Colourful Creator, God of Mystery** *Ruth Duck & Carlton Young*  
(Hymn # 317 – PCC Book of Praise)

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Minister:** Merciful God, we confess that there are times when our words do not match our actions.

**People:** We say that every child matters, yet generations of Indigenous children were taken from their families, their languages and cultures were suppressed, and many never returned home.

**Minister:** We confess that our church was part of that history, and we grieve the harm done to children, families and communities.

**People:** Forgive us when we seek an easy reconciliation without doing the difficult work of truth.

**Minister:** Forgive us when we speak of loving your creation but live in ways that damage the earth and its creatures.

**People:** Forgive us when our faith remains words rather than becoming compassion, justice and action.

**Minister:** Turn us again toward your way. Give us courage to listen.

**People:** Give us humility to learn. Give us patience to build relationships.

**Minister:** Give us strength to make changes. And give us grace to keep walking the road of reconciliation and renewal.

**People:** We pray in the name of Christ, who calls us not simply to say “yes,” but to go and do your will. Amen.

**Assurance of God’s Forgiveness:**

**Minister:** Hear the good news: God does not call us to pretend that the past did not happen. God calls us to face the truth and discover that grace is still possible. In Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness for our failures, strength for the work ahead, and hope for a different future. We cannot change the past, but by God’s grace we can change how we live today. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**A Message for our Children and Youth:** **The Listening Ears**

Good morning, everyone! I want you to try something with me. When I say, “Listen,” I want you to cup your hands behind your ears. Ready? Listen! Our ears are pretty amazing! They help us listen to music, hear our friends, hear stories, and pay attention when someone needs our help. But there is a difference between hearing something and really listening. I might be talking to you while you are thinking about something else. You might hear my voice, but you are not really paying attention to what I am saying.

Today, our Bible reading from Psalm 78 begins with an invitation: “*My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.*” The psalmist wants God’s people to listen carefully and to remember the stories of what God has done. They are supposed to share those stories with the next generation.

Today is Orange Shirt Sunday. We remember Indigenous children who were taken from their families and sent to residential schools. We remember survivors and the harm that residential schools caused to children, families, and communities. One of the ways we show respect is by listening to the people who have lived through these experiences. Sometimes, listening means we do not interrupt. Sometimes, it means we do not try to explain away something that someone has told us. Sometimes, it means we hear something difficult and take time to learn more.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus tells a story about two sons. One son says he will do what his father asks but does not. The other says no at first but later goes and does the work. Jesus reminds us that what we do matters, not just what we say. So, if we say that *every child matters*, how can we show it? We can listen to others. We can be kind. We can speak up when someone is being treated unfairly. We can learn about the history of residential schools and help make our communities welcoming places for everyone. And we can remember that listening is not just something we do with our ears. We listen with our hearts, too. We pay attention, we care, and we allow what we learn to make a difference. So, whenever you see an orange shirt, or if you wear one this Wednesday for Truth and Reconciliation Day, I hope you remember two things: *Every Child Matters*, and we are called to listen and to act.

### Prayer with the Children & Youth:

Minister: Loving God, thank you for giving us ears to hear and hearts to care. Help us listen to the stories of Indigenous survivors and communities and remember that *Every Child Matters*. Amen.

### Hymn # 632:

### Help us accept each other

*Words Fred Kaan & Music: Doreen Potter*

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1. Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,

each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted  
and meant to love and live.

2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all - not just for some,  
to love them as we find them  
or as they may become.

3. Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness  
and laughter's healing art.

4. Lord, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for righteousness and bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit;  
Lord, free us, make us one!

*to hear God's word*

### Prayer for Insight and Understanding:

Tamara: God of truth and wisdom, open our ears to your Word and open our hearts to your Spirit. As we hear the words of Jesus today, help us to hear the questions he asks of us. Where are we merely speaking, when you are calling us to act? Where are we preserving our privilege, when you are calling us toward justice? Where are we neglecting your creation,

when you are calling us to care for it? Shed the light of your wisdom on us so that we may hear and respond to your call today. Amen.

Psalm 78: 1-4 and 12-16 (read responsively)

Tamara: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;

**People: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**

Tamara: I will open my mouth in a parable;

**People: I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.**

Tamara: We will not hide them from their children;

**People: we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and the mighty wonders that God has done.**

Tamara: In the sight of their ancestors God worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

**People: The Lord divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the water stand like a heap.**

Tamara: In the daytime God led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light.

**People: The Lord split rocks open in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. The Lord made streams come out of the rock and caused water to flow down like rivers.**

The Scripture Lesson:

**Matthew 21: 23-32**

*New International Version (NIV)*

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### **The Authority of Jesus Questioned**

**Tamara:** When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So, they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

### **The Parable of the Two Sons**

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ The son answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and the second son answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

**Tamara:** For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God within us, and for the word of God around us.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

The Chancel Choir Anthem:

Lean On Me / We Shall Overcome

*arr. Mark Hayes*

The Message:

Not Just Saying, But Doing

There are some things we remember because they bring us joy. The birth of a child, a wedding day, a special anniversary, a family gathering, or a moment when someone showed us unexpected kindness. These memories are precious, and we return to them because they remind us of love, belonging, and the goodness we have experienced.

But there are other things we remember because we must. Not because they are easy to remember, and certainly not because they bring us comfort, but because forgetting would allow the harm of the past to be repeated. Some recollections carry grief, injustice, and the responsibility to tell the truth.

Today, on Orange Shirt Sunday, we gather in that spirit of remembrance. We remember Indigenous children who were taken from their families and communities and sent to residential schools. We remember the survivors and the intergenerational impacts that continue to be borne by families and communities. We remember the children who never returned home. And we remember the role of Canadian Churches, including our own Presbyterian Church in Canada, in the residential school system. The PCC operated twelve residential schools and has acknowledged the profound harm caused, committing itself to listening, truth-telling, reconciliation, and supporting Indigenous-led healing. Our remembrance must include both sorrow for what happened and responsibility for how we live now.

Our Scripture readings today invite us to consider what it means to remember faithfully, to listen honestly, and to allow what we hear to change how we live. Psalm 78 begins with an invitation: “My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.” The psalmist speaks about telling stories and passing on knowledge from one generation to

another. The community is called to remember the works of God and to share those stories with their children and grandchildren. In Scripture, memory is not simply about preserving information. It is about shaping the life of a community. The stories that we now see written in the Hebrew Bible were handed down orally for centuries, before they were finally written down during the Exile. What we remember influences what we value, how we understand ourselves, and how we treat one another. The psalmist wants the next generation to know the stories of God's faithfulness: how God brought the people out of Egypt, provided for them in the wilderness, and brought water from the rock. These are stories of life sustained in places where life seemed impossible. They remind the people that God is faithful, that God provides, and that God's people are called to trust and follow.

But Psalm 78 is not a story of uncomplicated success. As the psalm continues, it also remembers the people's failures, forgetfulness, and lack of faith. Biblical remembrance includes both gratitude and truth. It does not just tell the stories that make the community feel good about themselves! That is an important lesson for us on Orange Shirt Sunday. We must not remember the history of the church solely through its ministries of worship, education, and service. We must also remember the harm done when Christian institutions participated in colonization and the forced assimilation of Indigenous children.

Truthful remembrance is not an attack on the church. It is a necessary part of faithfulness. We cannot seek healing without acknowledging the wounds. We cannot speak meaningfully of reconciliation without listening to those who have experienced injustice. And we cannot simply remember the past as something that is "over and done with". The effects of residential schools continue across generations.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus enters the temple and begins teaching. The chief priests and elders approach him with a question: "By what authority are you doing these things?" They want to know who has given Jesus the right to teach and act as he does.

Jesus responds by asking them about the authority of John's baptism. When they refuse to answer honestly, Jesus tells a parable about two sons. A father asks the first son to work in the vineyard. The son refuses but later changes his mind and goes. The father asks the second son who says he will go but does not. Jesus then asks which son did the will of the father. The answer is clear: the one who went and worked in the vineyard. Jesus is challenging a religious understanding that places outward words and appearances above genuine obedience. Saying the right thing is not enough. Claiming to be faithful is not enough. What matters is whether our lives reflect the will of God.

This is particularly significant when we consider the work of truth and reconciliation. It is easy to speak beautifully about justice, compassion, and the dignity of every person, to wear an orange shirt, attend a service, and express our sorrow. While meaningful, these actions cannot be the end of our response. The question Jesus asks us is not simply, "What do you say?" It is also, "What do you do?" Do we listen to Indigenous voices and experiences,

even when what we hear is painful or challenges our assumptions? Do we learn the history of the institutions our church operated? Do we take seriously the commitments our denomination has made? Do we support the work of reconciliation beyond a single day on the calendar? Our words, apologies and acts of remembrance do matter. But they must lead toward action. The Presbyterian Church in Canada's commitments to listening, learning, truth-telling, responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and supporting Indigenous-led healing remind us that reconciliation is not accomplished through a single statement or ceremony. It is a continuing journey of humility, learning, and relationships.

Throughout this year's Season of Creation, we have reflected on water as God's gift and our calling. We have remembered water as a source of life, as a means through which God makes a way, and as something that connects all living things. Today, that theme invites us to think about the relationships that sustain life. As I mentioned last week, fresh, lifegiving water does not exist in isolation. It connects rivers, wetlands, forests, communities, and people. The health of creation depends upon relationships of interdependence. In the same way, human life depends upon relationships of respect, trust, and care. The history of colonization disrupted relationships between Indigenous peoples, their families, their communities, and their lands. Residential schools separated children from their parents and sought to suppress languages, cultures, spiritual traditions, and identities.

Truth and reconciliation therefore involve more than remembering what happened to individuals. They include recognizing the damage done to family and community relationships and supporting the work of restoring dignity, identity, and self-determination. When we speak of living water, we can hear a call to nurture life rather than diminish it. We can consider how we care for the places where we live, how we protect the vulnerable, and how we participate in healing relationships that have been damaged. Care and reconciliation are not identical concerns, but they can meet in a shared commitment to life, justice, and the restoration of relationships.

Orange Shirt Sunday calls us to remember the children and to honour survivors. It also calls us to examine our own lives and the ongoing responsibilities of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We should not approach this day with the assumption that we already understand everything. We have much to learn. Listening requires patience. Truth-telling requires humility. Reconciliation requires more than good intentions. There may be moments when we feel uncomfortable, defensive, or uncertain about what action to take. Those feelings need not prevent us from moving forward. We can bring our uncertainty to God and ask for the courage to continue learning.

The first son in Jesus' parable initially said "no" but later went to work. The story reminds us that change is possible. What matters is not the appearance of perfection but the willingness to respond faithfully. Perhaps today we can begin with something simple:

learning more about the history of residential schools, listening to Indigenous educators and leaders, supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, or reflecting on the commitments made by our denomination. This coming Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, is Truth and Reconciliation Day, and there are events taking place here in Brockville and events broadcast on TV and online that can help us learn more and take action. We do not do these things to make ourselves feel virtuous. We do them because truth matters, because every child matters, and because Jesus calls us toward justice and reconciliation. Psalm 78 encourages us to tell the stories so that future generations may know God's faithfulness. On this Orange Shirt Sunday, we are reminded that truthful storytelling must include the stories of suffering and injustice, as well as the courage, resilience, and continuing life of Indigenous peoples.

We remember so that we may learn. We learn so that we may act. And we act because God calls us to love our neighbours, to seek justice, and to walk humbly with our God. May our remembrance today be more than words. May it become a renewed commitment to listening, truth, healing, and reconciliation. And may the God who brought water from the rock continue to sustain us as we seek to become people whose actions speak louder than our words – that we are not just saying but doing what Jesus commands. Amen.

### Blessing the Word in our Lives:

Minister: May your Word read and proclaimed today challenge us, comfort us, and send us into the world ready to live what we believe. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Hymn # 587:

### Called as partners in Christ's service

*Words: Jane Parker Huber*

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1. Called as partners in Christ's service,  
called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment,  
fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring  
to fulfil God's chosen end.
2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,  
Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
let us follow, never faltering,  
reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer,  
all God's people, young and old,

blending human skills together,  
gracious gifts from God unfold.

3. Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,  
in a small or global sense,  
help us bear each other's burdens,  
breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
words of challenge, said with care,  
bring new power and strength for action,  
make us colleagues, free and fair.

4. So God grant us for tomorrow  
ways to order human life  
that surround each person's sorrow  
with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
our compassion to increase,  
messengers of faith, thus giving  
hope and confidence and peace.

### *Responding in love with thanksgiving*

#### Prayers of the People, the Lord's Prayer and Choral Amen

Minister: God of every generation, we bring before you the people and places that need your healing. We pray for Indigenous peoples across Canada: for survivors of residential schools, for intergenerational survivors, for families and communities carrying the wounds of the past, and for those working toward healing and renewal.

**People:** God of truth and reconciliation, hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for the children: for those who are safe and loved, for those who experience poverty, violence or discrimination, for children whose families have been separated, and for every child whose dignity and gifts are overlooked. Remind us that every child matters and is precious in your sight.

**People:** God of truth and reconciliation, hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for your church. Where we have caused harm, help us to acknowledge it. Where we have much to learn, make us willing to listen. Where reconciliation requires patience, give us perseverance. Where justice requires courage, give us courage. And where we have become comfortable with words, teach us to become people of faithful action.

**People:** God of truth and reconciliation, hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for your creation: for rivers and lakes, forests and fields, oceans and shorelines, animals, birds and insects, and the fragile web of life of which we are a part. We pray for communities here in Canada and around the world that have been affected by drought, wildfire, flood and extreme weather. Give wisdom to those who make decisions about our common resources and help each of us discover practical ways to live more gently upon the earth.

**People:** God of creation, hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for those who are suffering today: for people who are sick, for those who are grieving, for those who are lonely or afraid, for those displaced by war and violence, remembering especially the people of Gaza and the West Bank, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Ukraine, and for communities longing for peace. Especially we remember those whose names and needs we carry silently in our hearts.

**People:** God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Minister: And we pray for ourselves. Make us people whose “yes” to you is more than words. Help us to listen deeply, love generously, live responsibly, and work faithfully for a world where every person and every part of creation can flourish. We offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### The People’s Offering for the Work of Christ’s Church

#### Invitation to the Offering:

Minister: Jesus asks us to consider not only what we say, but what we do. Our offering is one way we put our faith into action. As we give today, may our gifts become signs of our commitment: to the healing of people and communities, to justice and reconciliation, to the care of creation, and to the ministry of Christ in the world. Let us give not simply because we have been asked, but because we have heard God’s call and want our lives to say “yes.”

You can give to First Presbyterian Church.....

\* by pre-authorized remittance (P.A.R.) (<https://presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving/pre-authorized-remittance-par-program/>). Contact the Church Office.

\* by e-transfer to [firstkirk@truespeed.ca](mailto:firstkirk@truespeed.ca)

\* by mail to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 885, 10 Church Street, Brockville, Ont., K6V 5W1

### Offering Praise Song:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### Prayer of Dedication:

Minister: Generous God, receive these gifts, and receive us along with them. Use what we give to bring hope where there is despair, healing where there is hurt, justice where there is oppression, and new life where there is brokenness. May our money, our time, our talents and our choices all become offerings of love. Teach us to be faithful stewards of your people and your planet. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Sending Hymn # 472:

#### We are God's people

*Words: Bryan Jeffrey Leech ©1976 Fred Bock Music Co.  
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1. We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,  
born of the Spirit, established by the word;  
our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand:  
oh let us live transparently,  
and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

2. We are God's loved ones, the bride of Christ our Lord,  
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured;  
now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:  
oh let us share each joy and care  
and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.

3. We are the body of which the Lord is head,  
called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;  
he wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one:  
oh let us freely give our gifts,  
and so shall God's work on earth be done.

4. We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,  
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;  
alone, we die, for on its own each ember loses fire:  
yet joined in one the flame burns on  
to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

## The Benediction:

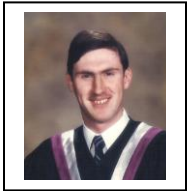
Minister: Friends, Jesus asks us a simple but challenging question: Will we merely say what is right, or will we do what is right? Go from this place to remember the children. Go to listen to the voices of Indigenous peoples. Go to walk the road of truth and reconciliation. And go to care for God's creation: not simply admiring its beauty but protecting its future. Let our worship become action. Let our repentance become change. Let our faith become visible in the way we live. Go in the name of Christ. And may the God of creation fill you with wonder. May the God of justice give you courage. May the God of reconciliation give you humility to listen and strength to walk the journey. And may the love of Christ guide us from words to action, from remembrance to reconciliation, and from gratitude for creation to faithful care for our common home. Go in peace and live as people who say **yes** to God's call. Amen.

## Organ Postlude:

## Voluntary in Bb

*John Blewitt*

### In Memoriam



We extend our love and sympathy to Geraldine Tanney on the death of her son **DUNCAN BRYCE TANNEY**, on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in the Brockville General Hospital. A graveside service in memory of Duncan Tanney took place at Roselawn Memorial Gardens on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements are with the Irvine Funeral Home and Chapel. Please remember Geraldine, sister Heather Slack and the family in your prayers.



International Day of Peace is a worldwide event celebrated annually on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Established by the United Nations in 1981, it provides a chance for individuals, groups and nations to reflect on and take action to promote peace within their communities. Today, peace feels elusive as we bear witness to conflicts and emergencies in Iran, Sudan, Gaza, Haiti, Yemen and elsewhere. Yet, even in the darkest times, inspired by our faith, we find hope in the efforts to bring relief.

PWS&D is dedicated to promoting peace by delivering lifesaving aid to those affected by conflict around the world and by engaging in advocacy to decry injustices. As we observe this day, let us reflect on Jesus' words: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

*A Mission Moment from The PCC*



**Next Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> is LOAVES & FISHES Sunday** - Our Church supports the work of this restaurant with our donations of money and time. This ministry assists so many and we are thankful to be a part of it. Donations of food can be left in the basket at the rear of the Sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office (white and chocolate cake mixes and coffee are great choices) during the week. Donations of money are welcome in your regular offering envelopes or online donations. Please mark all envelopes clearly. Thanks.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER CALENDAR

**LOAVES & FISHES SUNDAY** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month

**CRAFT & CHAT** Tuesday afternoons - Parlour – 1 to 4

**FPC HAND BELL CHOIR** Thurs Afternoons 4:15 pm. Red Room

**FPC CHANCEL CHOIR** – Thurs. Afternoons - 3 pm - Choir Room; Sunday Mornings - 9:30 am - Choir Rm

**SUNDAY SUPPER** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

**ONGOING PROJECTS:** Grocery Bags, Egg Cartons, Survival Kits (Food Bank), Pop Cans for Maintenance, Breakfast Bags (Food Bank), Sunday Supper Ministry

**COMMUNITY GROUPS** using the Church Building:

**AA GROUP** – Monday Evenings in the Red Room

**BGH DAY HOSPICE** – Wednesday Mornings & Afternoons in Parlour and Church Hall

Sep 27 **TRUTH & RECONCILIATION SUNDAY** - 11 am. in the Sanctuary. Church School.  
Sunday Supper Ministry - No Coffee Hour.

Sep 30 **ORANGE SHIRT DAY**

Oct 04 **MORNING WORSHIP** (World Communion Sunday) - 11 am. in the Sanctuary  
Leader in Worship - Christina Duncan

**Loaves & Fishes Sunday.** Church School. Coffee Hour.

Christina Duncan leads worship at St. Lawrence Lodge in the afternoon.

Oct 06 **B.A.M.A.** will meet at noon.

**Craft & Chat** will meet in the Parlour at 1 pm.

Oct 11 **HARVEST (Thanksgiving) SUNDAY WORSHIP** - 11 am. in the Sanctuary.  
Leader in Worship - Bruce Hynes (First Baptist Church)

Church School. Coffee Hour follows worship, in the Church Hall.

Oct 12 Thanksgiving Monday Holiday - Church Building and Office closed.

Oct 13 The **M.O.V.E. Committee** will meet in the Hall at 10 am.

Oct 14 The **SESSION** will meet in the Red Room at 7 pm.

Oct 17 **MEN'S BREAKFAST** - 8:15 am. at Stacked Restaurant

Oct 18 **SUNDAY WORSHIP (World Food Day) with Communion** - 11 am. - Sanctuary.  
Church School. Coffee Hour follows worship, in the Church Hall.

Reverend Marianne leads worship at the Wedgewood in the afternoon.

Oct 23 Reverend Marianne leads worship at Bridlewood in the afternoon.

Oct 25 **REFORMATION SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
11 am. in the Sanctuary.

Oct 26 **P.A. Day Camp** - 9 am. - 3 pm. in the Hall.

Happy Birthday to (Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 03<sup>rd</sup>):

ISABELLA DUNCAN - September 27<sup>th</sup>

JANET LEBRUN - September 29<sup>th</sup>

MOIRA GILMER - September 29<sup>th</sup>

PAM DEWAR - September 29<sup>th</sup>



**Office Hours** – September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Monday, Sep. 28<sup>th</sup> – 10 am to 4:30 pm.

Tuesday, Sep. 29<sup>th</sup> – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Wednesday, Sep. 30<sup>th</sup> – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Thursday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Friday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10 am. to 1 pm.

As the summer months end, please remember **THE CHALLENGE!** How did you spend your summer? Where did you go? Whom did you visit? Send pictures and stories etc. to [firstkirk@truespeed.ca](mailto:firstkirk@truespeed.ca) anytime now. Thanks! The Summer/Advent/Christmas issue of the Challenge, combined because of computer difficulties, will be ready for distribution hopefully on Sunday,

November 8<sup>th</sup>. The submission deadline will be Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thanks.

Available this morning on the table  
at the rear of the Sanctuary

**Copies of the PRAYER CALENDAR  
for OCTOBER**

**Copies of OUR DAILY BREAD**  
September to November Edition!

**Copies of The PRESBYTERIAN  
CONNECTION**

The Fall 2026 Edition!

Check out especially pages 14, 23, 22 and 29-30  
for pictures and news of First Church!

Stewardship Moments: Inspiring Generosity

Stewardship is not  
ownership — it is the  
privilege of care.

Unknown

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca



The 2025–2026 Gifts of Change catalogue is now online and hard copies are available in the church office. Giving a Gift of Change makes a difference in the lives of people in Canada and around the world. No matter what you choose to support, you can be sure your funds will be used effectively and efficiently to carry out life-changing programs that are responding to the needs of people affected by poverty, hunger, discrimination and conflict.

Visit - <https://presbyterian.ca/donate/gifts-of-change/>

**The FOOD BANK needs the following:**

- Canned Soups and Stews
- Cheese Whiz
- Peanut Butter and Jam
- Canned Pasta
- Powdered Milk
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Meats
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Vegetables
- Peanut-Free School Snacks and Drinks

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BROCKVILLE

**GLEN  
SODERHOLM**  
*in Concert*

**A NIGHT OF  
MUSIC & MESSAGE**

An evening of inspiring songs  
and stories that encourage  
the heart and lift the spirit.

**TONIGHT!!**  
Tickets available at  
the door.

**SEPTEMBER 27 | 7:00 PM**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 10 CHURCH STREET, BROCKVILLE



PROCEEDS TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S  
**TABLE MINISTRIES:**  
SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.



**TICKETS: \$25.00**

AVAILABLE  
THROUGH:



CHURCH OFFICE  
613-345-5014



EVENTBRITE

**GREAT MUSIC. MEANINGFUL MESSAGE.**  
**MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER.**



## National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, will be honoured at Hardy Park on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until 4 pm. All are welcome to join us as we reflect on the legacy of residential schools, the 94 calls to action and the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

We will have a fire keeper, drumming, a traditional feast and several vendors.

This event is sponsored by the Brockville NDTR Committee, Tsi Kanonhkhwatsheri:yo IIPCT, RTOERO and the Brockville Public Library.

### Where to Buy Official Shirts

Online Store: Order direct prints and 2026 designs from the Orange Shirt Society Store, which supports reconciliation efforts across Canada.

You can make direct contributions through the Orange Shirt Society Donate Page to support awareness and education surrounding residential school history.

Visit: <https://orangeshirtday.org/support/donate/>

## A Night of Charcuterie

### A Special Fundraising Evening of Fine Food, Art & Community

Saturday, October 3, 2026

6 to 9 pm at the Arts Hub Brockville.

Join us for **A Night of Charcuterie**, an unforgettable evening where exceptional food, live entertainment, and local art come together in support of a more accessible Arts Hub Brockville.

Your evening begins with live entertainment provided by Vocalist **Allison Hess** and Pianist **Christopher Cannon** while celebrating the creativity and generosity of our local arts community.

Then comes a beautifully handcrafted individual charcuterie board by local woodworker **Francis Mulcahy**, thoughtfully arranged with a delicious selection of gourmet meats, cheeses, fresh accompaniments, and artisan treats to create a complete dinner experience. Dessert from Brockville's own **Meringue Pâtisserie**, along with coffee or tea, is included, as well as your choice of a glass of wine or a non-alcoholic beverage. At the end of the evening, you will take home your handcrafted charcuterie board as a lasting reminder of a wonderful night. **Tickets are \$100 per person.** Proceeds from the evening will support **accessibility upgrades at Arts Hub Brockville**, helping us create a welcoming and inclusive space where everyone can experience the arts.

**Art Bonus!** One of the highlights of the evening is our exclusive **Art Draw**, featuring **more than 50 original works of art** generously donated by talented local artists. Only guests attending *A Night of Charcuterie* are eligible to purchase raffle tickets, giving you an exceptional opportunity to take home an original piece of art. Tickets are \$50.00 and will be available at the event.

ONTARIO  
CULTURE  
DAYS

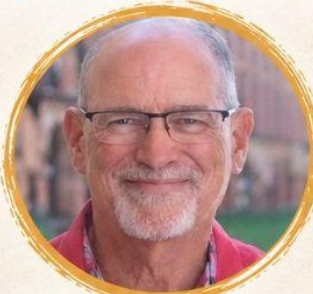
# The Art of Conversation

Stories  
Music  
Connection  
Community

The unifying power of  
storytelling and music



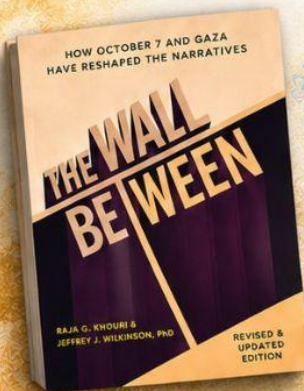
**Raja G. Khouri**  
Co-author of  
*The Wall Between*



**Jeffrey J. Wilkinson**  
Co-author of  
*The Wall Between*



**Samia Odeh**  
Musician



THURSDAY

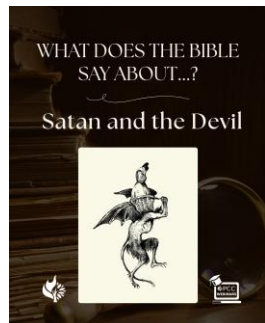
**OCTOBER 1, 2026**

7:00 PM



WALL STREET UNITED CHURCH  
5 Wall Street, Brockville, ON

*All are welcome! | Free Will Offering*



## What Does the Bible Say About...? Satan and the Devil

The second webinar in the "What Does the Bible Say About...?" series is Satan and the Devil, which explores the views of the person and work of Satan/the devil across the Hebrew Bible and through the New Testament writings. The webinar will allow for Q & A and a study sheet will be available following the webinar.

**Date:** October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 **Time:** 3 p.m.

To learn more visit <https://presbyterian.ca/webinars/what-does-the-bible-say-about-satan-and-the-devil/>.

## WEBINARS

*You can find all of the PCC's upcoming webinars, plus recordings of previous ones,*

<https://presbyterian.ca/leadership-webinars/>