



**CENTRAL WESTSIDE
UNITED CHURCH**

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

**ORANGE SHIRT
SUNDAY - SAYING
YES WITH OUR
LIVES**

**SUE CARLETON
MUSICIAN: JUDY PRINGLE**

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Welcome!

'Come as you are to share in our friendliness, laughter, and tears, and be spiritually refreshed.'

WE GATHER IN THIS PLACE....

Organ Prelude: *My soul hath a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord* by: George Oldroyd
Judy Pringle

Welcome and Life & Work of the Church: Glen Durst

Lighting of the Christ Candle & Fellowship Candles: Glen Durst
The Christ candle is a sign to us that Jesus Christ has come into this world as the Eternal Light. The Fellowship candles remind us that Jesus' people are called to be the people of Light in this world.

*As we light the Christ candle, let us hear the voice of Jesus saying, "I am the Light of the world"
and as we light the Fellowship candles, let us also hear the voice of Jesus saying, "You are the light of the world."*

Land Acknowledgement: Glen Durst

Long before those of us who are settlers and those who are descendants of settlers came to this land to live, there were people here. We acknowledge that many Nations of Indigenous people have lived in this beautiful place we all now call home. We give thanks to this land and the first peoples who cared for it. May we honour them by committing to the stewardship and respect of this land and the harmony of its people.

Introit: *Come In, Come In and Sit Down* VU#395 v.2

....APPROACHING GOD....

Call to Worship: (Responsive)

Sue Carleton

Leader: Come before the Lord, who sees beyond our words and looks into our hearts.

People: **We come to worship in spirit and in truth.**

Leader: God calls us not only to say "yes," but to live "yes" through obedience and compassion.

People: **May our actions reflect God's will.**

Leader: In Christ, authority is revealed not through power, but through righteousness and mercy.

People: **We come to honor the One whose authority brings life.**

Leader: Like the first son who turned back to do the Father's will, let us return our hearts to God.

People: **Lead us, Lord, into faithful obedience.**

Leader: Let us worship the God who is patient, who calls, who transforms.

People: **With open hearts and willing lives, we worship the Lord. Amen**

Opening Prayer: (in unison)

Creator,

Fill our very being with your word and Spirit today as we worship you. Open us to experience your totality through Creation, so our spirits will be lifted up by all that surrounds us. On this seventh day, may we find rest and refreshment in our celebration of your presence and in the wonder of Creation. Amen.

- Jim McKean, Orillia, ON

Opening Hymn:

It Only Takes a Spark

VU 289

A Time for All Ages:

The Story of Orange Shirt Day

...TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

Scripture: (*New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition*)

Glen Durst

God offers us through prophets' and apostles' words of life which in faith become the living Word. From birth to rebirth we are offered new beginnings. Let us receive and envision new meaning from the Word in these readings.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

CHOICE OF SCRIPTURES – From the First Nation Version of Psalms and the New Testament

Psalms 25: 1-10

A sacred song of Much Loved One (David).

¹O Grandfather, from deep in my inner being, I send my voice to you.

²It is in you that my heart finds trust. Set me free from the shame of defeat. Do not let my enemies humiliate me.

³No one who keeps their eyes on you will be put to shame. No, those who betray others for no good reason will be brought down low.

⁴Grandfather, show me your ways and teach me to walk in your footsteps.

⁵Guide me on your road of truth and instruct my heart. You are my Creator and the One Who Sets Me Free. From sunrise to sunset, I think deeply about your ways and put my hope in you.

⁶Grandfather, bring to mind the kindness and great love you have always shown to your people for as long as we have known you.

⁷Do not let the wanderings of my younger days and foolish ways come into your thoughts. You are good, Grandfather. Remember your faithful and true love for me.

⁸Grandfather always does what is honorable and true. He guides all who have strayed from his path back to his good road.

⁹He shows the humble of heart how to make good decisions and guides them to his right ways.

¹⁰All who keep Grandfather's sacred treaty and follow his ways know that his love is faithful to guide them on life's good road.

Matthew 21: 23 – 32

QUESTIONED BY THE SPIRITUAL LEADERS

²³When he arrived at the lodge, the head holy men were waiting for him. They and the ruling elders of the people came to him.

"By what right do you do these things?" they challenged. "Who gave you this right?"

²⁴"First you must answer one question from me," he challenged back, "and then I will tell you what gives me the right.

²⁵The purification ceremony performed by Gift of Goodwill (*John*), was it from the spirit-world above, or did it come from human beings?"

They put their heads together and talked it over. "If we say it is from the spirit-world above, he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?"

²⁶"But if we say it is from human beings, we fear what this crowd would do, for they are sure Gift of Goodwill (*John*) was a prophet."

²⁷So they answered him, "We do not know."

So then, "Creator Sets Free (*Jesus*) said to them, "neither will I tell you what gives me the right to do these things."

STORY OF TWO SONS

Then, since they would not answer him, he told them the answer to his own question about Gift of Goodwill (John) – with a story.

²⁸"How do you see it?" he asked them. "A man with two sons came to one of his sons and said, 'Son, will you work in my vineyard today?'

²⁹At first the son told him 'No,' but later changed his mind and went to work.

³⁰"Then the man went to his other son and asked him the same. He told his father, 'Yes, I will,' but never went."

³¹Creator Sets Free (*Jesus*) looked right at the spiritual leaders and asked, "Which of the two sons did what his father wanted?"

They said to him, "The first one."

"I speak the truth from heart," he said to them, "tribal tax collectors and those who sell sexual favors will find their way onto Creator's good road ahead of you!

³²Gift of Goodwill (*John*) came to show the good way, but you refused to hear him. You saw how the tribal tax collectors and those who sell sexual favors put their trust in him, but not even this changed your mind to believe him.

Response to God's Holy Word:

God never stops speaking! May we always be listening and wondering.

Thanks be to God!

Music Interlude:

by George Oldroyd

Judy Pringle

Sermon:

Orange Shirt Sunday - Saying Yes with Our Lives

Sue Carleton

Sermon Response Hymn:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

VU 333

....AND RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL....

Invitation to Offering:		Sue Carleton
As the offering is being brought forward, let each of us appreciate the blessings we have been given and our ability to share those blessings with others, it may be that we can give money, it may be that we can give of our time, and it may be that we can comfort others. Whatever our gift is, let us take this time to appreciate it.		
Offering Response: (Offering brought forward)	<i>For the Fruit of All Creation</i>	VU 227 v.3
Dedication of Our Offerings:		Sue Carleton
Prayers of the Community:		Sue Carleton
The Lord's Prayer: (spoken)		On Screen
Closing Hymn: (stand as able)	<i>God, Make Us Servants of Your Peace</i>	VU676
Sending Forth and Blessing:		Sue Carleton
Postlude:	<i>Fanfare by R. Mark Otterstad</i>	Judy Pringle

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Acknowledgements:

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