

## **Balzac United Church**

**September 28, 2025, 10:00am – Rising Up On The Wings Of The Eagle!**

**Guest Minister: Rev. Linda Hunter**

**Music Ministry: Lee Dowan, Dr. Alex Shawn**

*Today, in worship, we are commemorating Orange Shirt Day. September 30th is the actual date of Orange Shirt Day and signifies the time of year when Indigenous children were historically taken from their homes to often distant residential schools. Our scripture reading today speaks of rising up on the eagle's wings. Many Indigenous peoples revere the majestic eagle because of its spiritual power. It is sacred because it flies closest to the Creator and symbolizes respect, honour, strength and wisdom.*

**Prelude**                      Assurance                      arr. R. Summers

**The Introit**                      O God, We Call                      #411 VU

### **Welcome And Announcements**

#### **Land Acknowledgement**

Today, in a sacred act of remembrance, we acknowledge the territorial lands of the Treaty 7 peoples and the Metis Nation, Districts 5 and 6. Across the vast reaches of this land, eagles fly, soaring into the brilliant blue sky that covers Alberta. The majesty of the eagle reminds us of the majesty of the Indigenous peoples who were a part of this land long before settlers arrived. The eagle feather, in Indigenous culture, is a symbol of respect, honour, strength and wisdom. With this feather today, we ask for wisdom to continue the path of reconciliation that lies before us, leading us into our shared future.

*(the eagle feather is placed on the altar)*

#### **Lighting Of The Christ Candle**

May our worship service today be a time of spiritual nurture and connection with our Creator. May the light of Christ shine brightly in our hearts as we walk a path of reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples who journey with us.

*(the Christ Candle is lit)*

#### **The Call To Worship**

Today, many of us are wearing orange, to remember and honour all the Indigenous children who were removed from their homes.

**Today, we wear orange as a reminder of the courage of those who have been able to speak their truth.**

Today, we wear orange to remind us of a little girl named Phyllis who went proudly off to her residential school wearing her orange shirt, only to have it stripped away from her.

**Today, we proclaim, in the name of our Creator, that Every Child Matters.**

Today, we worship in truth and reconciliation.

**Opening Hymn**

*Morning Has Broken*

#409 VU

**Candles Of Joy, Concern And Sorrow**

**Opening Prayer**

Today, we focus our thoughts on the eagle feather, a profound and sacred symbol of you, O Creator, representing honour, respect, strength, wisdom and truth. We know that in Indigenous cultures, eagles have a special connection to you and are seen as messengers carrying prayers between the spirit and our physical world. So, today, as we commemorate Orange Shirt Day, we send our prayers to you on the wings of the eagle. Turn your heart to us now as we continue in worship of You. AMEN

**Hymn**

*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

#375 VU verses 1 & 4

**A Time Of Child Honouring**

*"My Powerful Hair"*

*Written by Carole Lindstrom*

*Illustrated by Steph Littlebird*

**Scripture Reading**

*Psalm 91:1-6;14-16*

**Reflection**

Symbols Matter!

**Hymn**

*On Eagle's Wings*

#808 VU

**Offering Invitation**

*He Hideth My Soul*

arr. M. Hayes

Recognizing that symbols matter in our lives because they remind us of who we are and who we are seeking to be, the giving of our morning offering is also a symbol. It is a reminder that we are committed to something deeply spiritual in this world, giving of ourselves so that others might be blessed by our generosity. Our morning offering will now be received.

**Prayer Of Dedication**

May our offerings rise up as on eagles' wings and bring hope and healing to the world. We thank you, O Great Creator, that we are able to share the bounty of this land with others. AMEN

**Prayers Of The People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Closing Hymn**

*Bring Many Names*

#268 VU

**The Blessing And Sending Forth**

Miigwech, O Great Creator,  
Miigwech, for all of Creation  
Send us forth now into your bountiful and beautiful world,  
Filled with gratitude for the life you have given us.  
May we rise up on eagles' wings and live boldly. AMEN

**Postlude**

*Peace*

arr. R. Summers