

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is a day to remember Residential School survivors and to commit ourselves to new patterns in the future

God of the ignored and overlooked, God of the downtrodden and the oppressed, we come to you to remember the ways the Residential School system impacts all of us to this day.

Some of us, O God, were students in the schools. Others of us are descendants of school survivors. For survivors and their descendants we pray that healing would come, healing that only your Holy Spirit can bring. Come Holy Spirit to heal memories, to heal psyches, to heal spirits, to heal cultural identity – bring healing we pray.

Some of us, O God, were staff in the schools. Others of us are heirs of those who brought the schools into being. Many of us are members of the society and the churches that did not call the schools into question, and in fact supported the schools existence. For our sin, for our failure to protect children, for our disrespecting our fellow human beings, we are sorry.

Come Holy Spirit, convict us of our sin. Come Holy Spirit and cause us to live by a different pattern of life.

God of transformation, in your Son Jesus Christ you have torn down the dividing walls that separate cultures and ethnicities, language groups and socio-economic realities. Teach us to live into the reality your Son, Jesus, has formed, so that reconciliation may mark the relationship between Indigenous peoples and Settler peoples in this land.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the great Reconciler. Amen.

- Peter Bush