

ORANGE SHIRT SUNDAY

September 26, 2021

Piano Prelude: "We are one in the Spirit"

Peter Scholtes arr. by Bruce Nasmith

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We gather for worship as those in search of living a good life.

But how do we live a good life when people make claims of wrong against us because we are Canadians and we belong to churches that ran residential schools?

How do we find goodness through justice? How do we learn what love demands of us when people have been broken by what we have been a part of doing to them collectively?

How do we take responsibility in a way that opens doors to understanding, lamenting, healing and building bridges toward reconciliation?

We are here to open our hearts to you, O God... even as our ancestors have been the ones most responsible, we are their inheritors as Canadians and as church folk. We are called to make things right in our time, and before you who is God over all.

ALL: Let us worship God together!

Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness

No. 399

Refrain:

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness
calling and free.**

**Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, Wind on the sea.**

1. You moved on the waters;
you called to the deep;
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep,
and over the aeons

you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings. **(Refrain)**

2. You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land,
and when they were blinded
with their idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes. **(Refrain)**

3. You sang in a stable;
you cried from a hill;
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still,
and down in the city
you called once again,
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind. **(Refrain)**

4. You call from tomorrow;
you break ancient schemes;
from the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions,
our men clear their eyes;
with bold new decisions
your people arise. **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: "O Master, let me walk with thee"

W. Gladden and H. P. Smith

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3

King Nebuchadnezzar, emperor of Babylon, made a golden statue 90 feet high and 6 feet wide; he set it up on the plain of Dura... ²Then he sent for all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue... ³So, they all assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue... ⁴the herald proclaimed aloud, 'You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.' ⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ Accordingly, at this time certain Babylonians came forward and denounced the Hebrews. ⁹They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, 'O king, live for ever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp,

drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue,¹¹ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.¹² There are certain Hebrews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.'

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king.¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar said to them, 'Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up?'¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?'

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defence to you in this matter.¹⁷ If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us.¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.'

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace to be heated up seven times more than was customary,²⁰ and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.²¹ So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire.²² Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.²³ But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counsellors, 'Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?' They answered the king, 'True, O king.'²⁵ He replied, 'But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.'²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!' So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counsellors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them.²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his

servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.' ³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

We are listening, O God;

Speak to us!

Sermon:

A TALE OF TWO PRESBYTERIANS

Dr. Harris

Special Music: "You raise me up"

Rolf Lovland and Brendan Graham

Soloist Bruce Dow

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: Lord, whose love

No. 722

1. Lord, whose love
through humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose
every gift that you impart.

3. As we worship,
grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving your
abundant life to share.

2. Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O lord, your deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles
still to save and make us whole.

4. Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord in freedom
may your mercy know, and live.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Piano Postlude: Andante from Concerto in the Italian Style

J. S. Bach

Thank you to Dr. Harris and Rev. Rebecca, our musicians, Bruce Nasmith, Joanne Nasmith, Radostina Borisova, Bruce Dow, and Jim Nasmith, and Kome Abel for operating the sanctuary camera.