

Message from President Hugh Ellis, October 1, 2025

Hello again friends,

And suddenly it is October, a time of year when our attention is drawn almost automatically to the wonders of creation. Orange pumpkins, colourful pots of mums, fresh red tomatoes, leaves of brilliant orange and red and yellow. It is almost as if God is shouting “People! Pay attention! ”

On September 30 we recognized the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Canada’s indigenous culture and beliefs are so closely tied to nature and creation that this special day seems to fit so comfortably into the liturgical calendar and the Season of Creation. Truth and Reconciliation is more than a day on the calendar. It requires intention as we make efforts to live into the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. If you have not done so previously, I encourage you to read the full 94 recommendations. Take your time with each one. Ponder them individually. What are they saying to you? What do you feel empowered or able to support and how?

Sunday Oct 5 many of us will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion as part of Worldwide Communion Sunday when Christians across the globe will partake of the bread and wine in accordance with our unique practices and beliefs. It is a time of coming together in an increasingly fractured and changing world and maybe a time to consider the things we have in common as opposed to those that separate us and draw us apart. Worldwide Communion Sunday offers us a time to find the “humanity” in our neighbour.

The following Sunday we will celebrate Thanksgiving here in Canada. There will be family gatherings, walks in the crisp air, laughter and memories shared, special family recipes and hopefully a shared meal with family and/or friends. As we decorate our churches with leaves and samples of harvest, we offer thanks for how fortunate we are to live and work and worship where we do. Life is never perfect, but I am certain we can all find things for which we are grateful. Most of us have more than we require for our basic needs and for that alone we should offer thanks. Give some thought in this wonderful season of plenty as to how you can share of that abundance with those who have less or maybe nothing at all. Support your food bank, invite someone who might be alone to share a meal or deliver one to them if they have mobility issues, make a special donation to Mission and Service or offer a gift of your time or talent to make someone’s life just a little easier.

Celebrate Creation and Happy Thanksgiving! May Creator continue to bless us all so that we in turn may be a blessing to others

Hugh