

Praying for healing and reconciliation

By Darcie Lich – Oblate Associate

Creator God of love and justice, comforter of those who mourn, we turn to you acknowledging the actions of our Church and our nation. We have asked forgiveness and committed to work for healing and reconciliation. But we are painfully aware that for some, that change came too late.

We offer you our sorrow for the wrongs committed against the people of this land, our First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Canada's Indian Residential Schools.

We offer you our contrition for what was allowed to happen, and for what will never be.

We offer you our repentance for the injustices borne of arrogance and the harm done through indifference.

We pray for comfort for the families and communities whose children, siblings, family, and friends were taken from home but did not return.

We pray for consolation of hearts wounded through separation and trauma.

We pray for healing of bodies, minds, and spirits wounded through abuse and oppression.

We ask for clear eyes, that we may face the story of our nation and our Church with honesty.

We ask for open hearts, that we may hear the stories of Indigenous Peoples with humility.

We ask for courage, that we may once again ask our brothers and sisters for forgiveness.

We declare our desire to be a people who pursue peace.

We declare our resolve to be a people who remember.

We declare our commitment to be a people of truth and reconciliation.

Holy One, Creator of all that is, seen and unseen, of story and of song, of heartbeat and of tears, of bodies, souls, voices and all relations: you are the God of all truth and the way of all reconciliation. Come upon us, O Divine Healer, and open our eyes to the injustices brought against the Indigenous peoples of this land, their languages and cultures. May you be known for healing and wholeness, rather than being blamed for abuses that were brought about by human weakness and hostility. Make us people of integrity and bearers of hope, that we may commit to restoring relationships and to journeying together, as Non-Indigenous and Indigenous brothers and sisters, to a place of peace in you, where every tear will be wiped away, and every sorrow turned to joy. Give us one heart and one mind to walk together in the love and strength of your Spirit, in truth, reconciliation, and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our brother, our Lord, and our hope.

Amen. St. Paul, pray for us.

Support Prayer for the Loss in Kamloops

Creator,

We give thanks for this day and each day you grant us life to walk on this great land, our Mother.

Give us the heart and strength to come together in prayer in this time of mourning, reflection, and peace.

The news we have heard these last few days is of our relations, our families, the children who have been physically taken away from us and who have now been found.

And with this news, we grieve for their memory, for their struggle, for their spirit.

We pray for good understanding, guidance, and love for all our families and communities who will need direction and resolution at this time.

And we come together in prayer and ask for your light to guide us to be a part of that needed peace, support, and resolve for everyone who is reacting to this great tragedy in our Indigenous Nations of this great land.

Creator be with us, allow us to be brave. Allow us to be strong. Allow us to be gentle to one another. Allow us to be humble. But most of all, allow us to be like the Creator's love.

Peace be with us; we lift up our prayers to you. In love, trust and truth, peace be with us all.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

- Rev. Murray Pruden, National Executive Minister, Indigenous Ministries & Justice, The United Church of Canada

A Prayer for Indigenous People's Day

O Great Spirit, God of every people, we come to you as your many children, to ask for your forgiveness and guidance.

Forgive us for the colonialism that stains our past, the ignorance that allowed us to think that we could claim another's home for our own. Heal us of this history.

Remind us that none of us were discovered since none of us were lost, but that we are all gathered within the sacred circle of your community.

Guide us through your wisdom to restore the truth of our heritage. Help us to congruent the racism that divides us as we confess the pain it has caused to the human family.

Call us to kinship. Mend the hoop of our hearts and let us live in justice and peace, through Jesus Christ, the One who came that all people might live in dignity.

Amen.

Thank you,
Margaret Mary

Prayer for Victims at Kamloops Residential School

Lord of all compassion, we pray for those who suffered due to these tragic events. Grant those who lost their lives eternal rest. For all those families who were affected, and for those who continue to suffer from the trauma of residential schools, may you bless them with strength and healing.

We entrust to you all children who died. In the face of this great tragedy, we pray that all families of the victims may know your peace that surpasses all understanding.

Fill us all with your unfailing hope and mercy. Help us to be diligent in the coming days to be especially caring and kind to one another, always ready to love and forgive.

We ask all these things through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Truth and Reconciliation

(Prayer of repentance and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples following Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission)

O God,
Great Spirit and Creator,
We praise you for your gifts that surround us –
For the gift of the land that gives us food, shelter and water;
For the gift of the sun that gives warmth and light to all that grows;
For the gifts of the moon and stars which you have arranged for your glory;
For the gifts of language and culture, through which your peoples praise you, and share the most deeply held values you have engraved on their hearts.

Come upon us, O Divine Healer and open our eyes –
To the injustices brought against our Indigenous Peoples, their language and culture in Canada's Indian Residential Schools.
Give us repentant hearts –
That ache with sorrow for their violence against First Nations families and their children.
Give us determined hearts –
That refuse to stand by when the dignity of our Indigenous brothers and sisters is trampled.
Give us healing hearts –
That beat with the drum of Jesus' Gospel, to defend and honour our Indigenous neighbour, their language and way of life.
Give us flaming hearts –
That burn with love for you, who come to us
... in every human face
... in every language and culture
... in every gift of creation.

Make us stewards –
Of one another's dignity,
Of one another's safety,
Of one another's lands,
Of one another's right to a cultural identity:
... as unique peoples,
... as gifts to the human family,
... as your beloved children.

Pour out your healing love on all who suffered in Canada's Indian Residential Schools;

- on bodies, minds and spirits wounded through abuse,
- on hearts wounded through separation and disdain,
- on families wounded through trauma and anguish that still torment over the course of generations.

Jesus – gentle Saviour, forgiving and humble of heart,
Good Shepherd, Divine Healer,
Great Lover of all peoples:

We offer you our sorrow

For the wrongs committed

Against our First Nations' children in Canada's Indian Residential Schools.

We offer you our desire

To walk with our First Nations brothers and sisters;

To journey with them

On the path of truth, healing and reconciliation,

As we share this earthly pilgrimage to our heavenly homeland,

Where every tear will be wiped away

And every sorrow will be turned to joy.

Give us one heart and one mind

To walk forward together along this path

In the love and strength of your Spirit,

In truth, reconciliation and peace.

We make this prayer

In the power of your Most Holy Name.

Amen