



## A Liturgy for The National Indigenous Day of Prayer

observed June 20, 2021<sup>1</sup>

### Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for the Land

We acknowledge that this church is situated upon traditional Indigenous territory. This land is part of Treaty #20 signed in 1818 by representatives of the Anishinabe (Ojibway) peoples of Mississaugan and Chippewayan dialects. The treaty includes all of the City of Kawartha Lakes. We also recognize the enduring presence of First Nations peoples on this land.

Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts we pray in Your name, Your son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. Amen.

### Call to Worship

**CELEBRANT** Christ our true and only Light: receive our prayers and songs, and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no evil desires may possess us who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace. Amen.

*(source: Gelasian Sacramentary)*

### Opening Hymn - #355 All Creatures of Our God and King (V. 1, 2, 5, & 7)

1. All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing: alleluia, alleluia! Bright burning sun and golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Great rushing winds and breezes soft, you clouds that ride the heavens aloft, O sing now, alleluia! Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice; stars nightly shining, find a voice, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
5. All you with mercy in your heart, forgiving others, take your part, alleluia, alleluia! All you that pain and sorrow bear, sing praise and cast on God your care: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
7. Let all things their creator bless, and worship God in humbleness, alleluia, alleluia! Praise God the Father, praise God the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### Prayer to the Four Directions

**CELEBRANT** God the Creator, the strength of the people, we honor you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. We respect the truth of your spirit world and care for your creations to the east,

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<sup>1</sup> Image from "Anishnaabe Scrapbook" website <https://390730383667008761.weebly.com/symbols.html>

to the south, to the west and to the north. We honor you by deeds and not words. We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life.

**FIRST READER**

Come Great Spirit as we gather in your name.

We face East: To your symbol color gold the breath of the morning sun, to your animal sign the Eagle which soars ever upward in the praise of the Creator and calls us to do the same, to your words calling us to balance our minds in the spirit of humility and truth. We invoke your Spirit of illumination and far sighted vision. The ways have shown us how to love you and each other with heart, mind, and soul, and we pray.

**ALL Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

**SECOND READER**

We turn to the South: To your symbol color red the hue of revelation, to your animal sign the Wolf...strong and enduring. The ways call us to balance of Spirit and harmony with all nations, tribes and clans. We invoke your wisdom, grace and goodness of the ages, and we pray.

**ALL Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

**THIRD READER**

We turn to the West: To your symbol color black the stillness of night, to your sign thunder mighty and bold, to your animal sign the Buffalo. The ways calls us to balance emotions in the tradition of truth and honesty.

We invoke your spirit ways of seeing within the community and its strength to endure, and we pray.

**ALL Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

**FOURTH READER**

We turn North: To your symbol color white the truth of clarity and brightness, to your animal sign, the Bear, which touches us with earthiness and all things growing, to your words calling us to balance of our body in the spirit of a good sense and humor. We invoke your spirit of innocence, trust and love. The ways open our eyes to the sacredness of each living thing, and we pray.

**ALL Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

**FIFTH READER**

We turn to complete the circle: To God the Creator who cleanses the world with snow wind and rain, to the Creator's Son, Jesus the Christ, who fills us with mercy and loving embrace of all nations and to the Holy Creator's Spirit who guides us, and we pray.

**ALL Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

**CELEBRANT** Creator, you bent the earth like a bow until it was one, round, shining planet. At your word the land was drawn into mountains and tundra, forests and prairies; the waters were

gathered together into rivers, lakes and seas. Many times, when people crossed these seas from other lands they broke the circle of your creation by their greed and violence and they shattered the lives of others. Creator renew the circle of the earth and turn the hearts of all people to one another; that they and all the earth may live and be drawn toward you through the love of Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit in the circle of the Trinity, forever One. Amen

*(A Prayer to the Four Directions, adapted and revised from the prayer used at the National Cathedral, DC in A Celebration of Native American Survival Service, 1992)*

### **The Gathering Prayer**

**ALL Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this Sacred Circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your Spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen**

### **Collect of the Day**

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen

### **The Proclamation of the Word (from Common English Bible)**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Isaiah 40:25-31

**Reader** So to whom will you compare me, and who is my equal? says the holy one. Look up at the sky and consider: Who created these? The one who brings out their attendants one by one, summoning each of them by name. Because of God's great strength and mighty power, not one is missing. Why do you say, Jacob, and declare, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, my God ignores my predicament"? Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 19**

**Leader** Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.

**People** **One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known.**

**Leader** Of course, there's no speech, no words— their voices can't be heard—

**People** **but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth. God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.**

**Leader** The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite; like a warrior, it thrills at running its course.

**People** **It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other. Nothing escapes its heat.**

**Leader** The Lord's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being. The Lord's laws are faithful, making naive people wise.

**People** **The Lord's regulations are right, gladdening the heart. The Lord's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.**

**Leader** Honoring the Lord is correct, lasting forever. The Lord's judgments are true. All of these are righteous!

**People** **They are more desirable than gold— than tons of pure gold! They are sweeter than honey— even dripping off the honeycomb!**

**Leader** No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them.

**People** **But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong? Clear me of any unknown sin**

**Leader** and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me. Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.

**People** **Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Philippians 4:4-9

**Reader** Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.

**Holy Gospel** John 1:1-18

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
**All** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**All** **Glorify to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of Christ  
**All** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**The Homily** Rev. Bonnie Skerritt

### **Creed**

**ALL We believe in the love of God, embodied in the person of Jesus, spread through the cosmos by the Holy Spirit.** *(University Episcopal Community at The Univ. of MN)*

### **The Prayers of the People**

**CELEBRANT** Creator and Redeemer, as we approach you in prayer, make us walk in beauty and balance, make us open our hearts and minds, make us speak the truth. We pray first for your Community, the Church, The Body of Christ. We pray for all our relatives in the circle of life throughout all Creation; for those chosen to be our leaders and teachers.

**READER** In peace, we pray to you, Lord God,

We call upon the earth, our Mother and home, with its beautiful depths, soaring heights and deep waters, its vitality and abundance of life, and together we ask that it

**People: Teach us and show us the way.**

**READER** We call upon the mountains and tundra, the high green valleys and prairies filled with wild flowers, the snows, the summits of intense silence, and we ask that they:

**People: Teach us and show us the way.**

**READER** We call upon the land which grows our food, the nurturing soil, the fertile fields, the abundant gardens and orchards, and we ask that they:

**People: Teach us and show us the way.**

**READER** We call upon the forests, the great trees reaching strongly to the sky with earth in their roots and the heavens in their branches, the fir and the pine, the cedar and the maple, we ask them to:

**People: Teach us and show us the way.**

**READER** We call upon the creatures of the fields and forests and the waters, our brothers and sisters the wolves and deer, the eagle and bear, the great whales and the fish. We ask them to:

**People: Teach us and show us the way.**

**READER** We call upon all those who have lived on this earth, our ancestors and our friends, who dreamed the best for future generations, and upon whose lives our lives are built, and with thanksgiving, we call upon them to:

**People: Teach us and show us the way.**

**CELEBRANT** Creator, you made the world and declared it to be good: the beauty of the trees, the softness of the air, the fragrance of the grass speaks to us; the summit of the mountains, the thunder of the sky, the rhythm of the waters speak to us; the faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning, the dewdrops on the flower speak to us. But above all, our heart soars, for you speak to us in Jesus the Christ, in whose name we offer these prayers. Amen

*(Prayers of the People, The Church of the Four Winds, Portland Oregon)*

## **Confession**

**CELEBRANT** Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

**ALL Creator God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgment; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**CELEBRANT** The Lord enrich you with grace, and nourish you with many blessings; the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

## **The Peace**

**CELEBRANT** The peace of Christ be always with you

**PEOPLE**        **And also with you.**

**Offertory Song - #24        Abide With Me (V. 1, 3, & 5)**

1. Abide with me: fast falls the even tide; the darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
  
3. I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's  
power? Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord  
abide with me.
  
5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to  
the skies; heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee: in life, in death, O  
Lord, abide with me.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**Prayer over the Gifts**

**ALL**    **Creator, you bless us with many good gifts returned to you from your  
creation. Feed us with the Bread of Life, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**CELEBRANT** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this  
bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for  
us the bread of life.

**PEOPLE**        **Blessed be God forever.**

**CELEBRANT** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine  
to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of  
salvation.

**PEOPLE**        **Blessed be God forever.**

*(Offertory Prayer, Didache 3rd Century)*

**Eucharistic Prayer**

**CELEBRANT** God the Creator is here.

**PEOPLE**        **God's Spirit is with us.**

**CELEBRANT** Lift up your hearts

**PEOPLE**        **We lift them to God the Creator**

**CELEBRANT** Let us give thanks to God

**PEOPLE**      **It is right to offer our thanks and praise.**

**CELEBRANT** God the Creator, our Great Spirit, from the depths of our hearts we give you thanks. We say thank you, now and forever. From the place of the rising sun in the East, to the South where the warm winds blow, from the West where the soft rain comes, to the coldness of the North. We unite with all creation from the four directions to join in the everlasting thanksgiving and praise for the gift of Jesus Christ.

With hearts lifted, we join with the angels, the guardian spirits, the saints, and all our ancestors as we say

**ALL**      **Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**CELEBRANT** O Great Spirit, our Creator from whom all holiness comes, we come before you again today. Just as in generations past, like our grandmothers and grandfathers, we come to worship you and acknowledge your greatness. We marvel at your creation.

You sent Jesus into creation because people had turned away from you and no longer loved each other, bringing death and destruction. Sharing our living and dying, Jesus opened our eyes and our hearts to understand that we are all relatives and that you are our Great Spirit the Creator.

Stretching out his arms upon the cross, he became a perfect offering for all, uniting in beauty all that is, with all that has been, and with all that ever will be.

On the night Jesus was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; gave thanks, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL**      **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

In this ceremony which Jesus gave us, we celebrate our salvation. In our offering of praise and thanks, we stand in the memory, strength, and love of Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Remembering, we make our offering.

By your Holy Spirit, make our gifts holy, so that they may be spiritual food and drink. + Make us holy, so that we respectfully receive this feast and serve you in each other.

Surrounded now by our ancestor saints, Kateri Tekakwitha, Black Elk, Joseph Brant, Molly Brant, Henry Budd, James Settee and all saints and angels, with the heavenly community which gives you worship forever. May we also live in unity and live as relatives to all.

*(Eucharistic Prayer revised version from the Liturgy of St. John's, Red Lake, MN)*

United in Christ with all who stand before you on earth and heaven, we worship you, God the Creator, our Great Spirit, in songs and dance of infinite praise. Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen. *(adapted from NZ Maori Prayer Book)*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trial too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.

*(From the Anglican Church of New Zealand Maori Prayer Book)*

### **The Fraction**

**CELEBRANT** Whoever comes to me shall not hunger

**PEOPLE**        **and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**

**CELEBRANT** These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

### **Post-Communion Song - #572 Let There Be Light (V. 1, 3, 5, & 6)**

1. Let there be light, let there be understanding, let all the nations gather, let them be face to face;
3. Perish the sword, perish the angry judgement, perish the bombs and hunger, perish the fight for gain;
5. Thy kingdom come, thy spirit turn to language, thy people speak together, thy spirit never fade;
6. Let there be light, open our hearts to wonder, perish the way of terror, hallow the world God made.

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

**CELEBRANT** Let us pray

**ALL** **Great Creator, you have fed us with bread from heaven. Continue to renew us in your truth, to give light to our minds strength to our bodies, and seal us with your Holy Spirit. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

Send us anywhere you would have us go, only go there with us. Place upon us any burden you desire, only stand by us to sustain us. Break any tie that binds us, except the tie that binds us to you.

And the blessing of God; the Creator, who made and knows us; the Savior, who redeems and befriends us; and the Spirit, who enlightens and sustains us, be with you this day and always. Amen.

*(Blessing attributed to The Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong, Episcopal Church)*

## **Closing Song - #576 For the Healing of the Nations (All 4 verses)**

1. For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords. To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us, Father, into freedom; from despair your world release, that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace. Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned: pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice, may we hallow life's brief span.
4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind; that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

## **Dismissal**

**CELEBRANT** In the name of the Light that came into the world go in peace.

**PEOPLE** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**