

Three Options for the Prayers of the People June 21st 2020 National Indigenous People's Day of Prayer

Feel free to adapt one of these three samples of Prayers of the People to your community and context.

Prayers of the People- National Indigenous People's Day during COVID-19

Reverend Leigh Kern, June 2020

Creator of all life- we lift our hearts to you in gratitude for all the medicines and teachings of this season of life. We take this moment, to center ourselves.

(pause for a breath)

We raise our hearts in gratitude for the gift of breath.

We thank you Living Spirit- for the gift of our bodies, the lands and waters and relationships that sustain us.

Our prayer response this morning is:

In the shadow of your wings, we are held

All: **Shelter us, in your loving mercy.**

We pray for those who are sick, exhausted, shut in,

For healthcare workers, long term care workers, for all who are vulnerable in this pandemic. For those who are sick, on Reserve or remote communities, or in cities underserved, for all living without access to clean drinking or other basic necessities of health.

For those who are without shelter, for those who don't have enough to eat

For those who are struggling to survive, for their safety and protection.

In the shadow of your wings, we are held

Shelter us, in your loving mercy.

For our national Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald, for the Indigenous House of Bishops, and all healers, traditional teachers, Elders, priests, deacons, lay and community leaders. For the self-determining Indigenous Church, and all its leaders.

For Toronto Urban Native Ministry, and Reverend Evan Smith, Reverend Leigh Kern and Sandra Campbell. For all on the front lines of healing and justice.

For the flourishing of our ministries and guidance of your Holy Spirit.

For our local Chiefs and Indigenous leadership and governance, for all in leadership and authority, for the creativity of your vision.

In the shadow of your wings, we are held

Shelter us, in your loving mercy.

For those who have died from COVID-19

For all who have died alone

For all whose lives have been cut short by violence
For recent fatal victims of police brutality, especially Chantel Moore and all murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit peoples.
For all who mourn and grieve lost loved ones.

Moment of Silence

For justice and healing at every level of our relationships and society.
For the healing of the legacy of Indian Residential Schools and policies of child apprehension.

For the vulnerable, for prisoners, refugees, and all who are afraid.
In the shadow of your wings, we are held

Shelter us, in your loving mercy.

For all engaged in building trusting relationships and alliances across difference.

For the liberation of our hearts and minds from all forms of racism.

For the fire of your Spirit to enkindle renewal across this land.

Open our hearts, O God, grant us compassion, help us see our interdependence, let love transform our communities.

We thank you, source of life, mother of our souls, for our creation and all the nourishment of Mother Earth. In the shadow of your wings, we are held, **shelter us, in your loving mercy. Amen.**

Prayers of the People from the Four Directions

*Prayers may be offered by a leader from each direction
Toronto Urban Native Ministry, 2020*

One We pray from the East, the colour red, as the dawn breaks through the darkness of night. For all those who desire to be parents, for all pregnant parents, and little ones being born into the world. For all children and youth, for their protection and growth in their gifts. May all young ones feel loved and supported. For Indigenous mothers, parents, fathers, grandparents, midwives, and birth workers. For the strength and revitalization of Indigenous culture. For all seeds being sown this season and all plants just beginning to grow. Help us to learn from small ones, Creator. As the sun dispels the fog, clear our vision and society of all that hinders us, all racism and structures of harm. We pray for all people, waters, and lands that are to the East of us.

All **Our streams, our tears, and our life are interconnected. We lift the healing of ourselves and our world before you, O Source of Life.**

One We pray from the South, the colour yellow, the power of the sun at noonday, the strength of life, and the power of love. We pray for all people living their vocation, for all working on projects for justice and healing. For the invigoration of the work of love, here and everywhere. For those who

labour for treaty rights, land and water defence, and for clean drinking water on Reserves. For all who labour for the healing of all plants, animals, peoples, and the beautiful biodiversity of our home. We pray for all people, waters, and lands that are to the South of us.

All **Our streams, our tears, and our life are interconnected. We lift the healing of ourselves and our world before you, O Source of Life.**

One We pray from the West, the colour black, the Western Doorway where souls make their journey into the next world. For all who are dying and those who have died, especially Regis Korchinski-Paquet and all missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people. For all whose beautiful lives have been cut short by violence, especially those recently killed by police, Chantel Moore, Eisha Hudson, George Floyd, and all those you grieve either silent or aloud (*moment of silence*). Strength, comfort and dignity to their families, and all who grieve. We pray for all people, waters, and lands that are to the West of us.

All **Our streams, our tears, and our life are interconnected. We lift the healing of ourselves and our world before you, O Source of Life.**

One We pray from the North, the colour white, the symbol of spiritual vision. We pray that you unite our minds with Your mind, O God. We thank you for the Elders and visionaries who have inspired us with the vision of reconciliation. Let your vision be our vision. Grant our communities and circles of relationships the insight of Your guidance. For those with power-give us your spirit of justice and truth. Let your love reign. We pray for all people, waters, and lands that are to the North of us.

All **Our streams, our tears, and our life are interconnected. We lift the healing of ourselves and our world before you, O Source of Life.**

One Gathering all our prayers into one, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, Our Father...

A Litany for the Healing and Restoration of our Church

From the Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land, 2017

This beautiful and powerful litany came out of the work of reconciliation in the Diocese of Rupert's Land. Download more information about this litany at the following link:
<https://www.anglican.ca/im/nidp/litany-healing-restoration-church/>

Holy Creator, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,

Have mercy on us.

Risen Christ, through whom the whole creation is reconciled to God,

Have mercy on us.

Life-giving Spirit, whose love and truth fills the world and searches the depths of our lives,

Have mercy on us.

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,

Have mercy on us.

From our failure to recognize and respect the revelation of your truth and love in the First Peoples of this land,

Saviour, forgive and heal us.

From our participation in the systematic oppression of indigenous sovereignty, language, culture and spirituality,

Saviour, forgive and heal us.

From our role in the Indian Residential Schools designed to eliminate the unique society, wisdom and beauty of the indigenous peoples of this land,

Saviour, forgive and heal us.

From our complicit tolerance of the decimation of Indigenous family structures leaving children vulnerable to abuses of every kind,

Saviour, forgive and heal us.

From our continued acceptance of unjust legal, educational, health and social structures that continue to oppress and destroy the lives of many indigenous people,

Saviour, forgive and heal us.

O God, we pray for the gifts of your grace and your love which never gives up on us and is forever faithful. Inspire our minds with a vision of the reconciliation of your kingdom in this time and place.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our eyes, that we may see the sacredness in all creation.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth of every peoples the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our lips, that we may speak of the beauty of every tongue and dialect proclaiming the wonderful works of God.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hearts, that we may discern your healing work in which you call us to be immersed, particularly in partnership with the First Peoples of this land.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our minds that we may witness to your Good News in our neighbourhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hands, that we may forever shun violence and embrace the work you give us to do.

Hear us, O Christ.

Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving you in your mission in the world, and together witnessing to your love on every continent and island of your creation. We ask this in the name of the Risen Christ in whom we are one.

Amen.