



# Resources

# Spirit Resources

## The Gathering Prayer

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 Centre 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.

From *Native Ministries and Gospel Based Discipleship*  
Episcopal Church Center, New York  
[nativeministries@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:nativeministries@episcopalchurch.org)

## Lament

We remember the children of the Indian Residential Schools.  
We remember how they were plucked up from their homes by a system  
of arrogance that denied a good way of life.

Their tears, their hunger, their loneliness and their fear is not forgotten.  
The shame that was taught, lingers yet.  
The pain that was inflicted upon their bodies remains.

We remember the parents, the aunties; the uncles; the grandmas and gram-  
pas left to grieve the empty places in their homes and their communities.

Mothers were left with tear stained aprons; fathers suffered in unyielding silence; How was it they were expected to carry on, having lost their joy, their purpose?

And how was it that their community could continue to come together to celebrate life and move together toward a bright future, when their future is gone?

How long will it take to strengthen family, homes; and spirits? How long will it take to heal the memories?

Who must we be, and what must we do to restore integrity and dignity to your world?

God of all great transformation,  
in our lament we cry out to you.  
God of all healing power,  
in our pain we call your name.  
God of all life,  
in our hope we come before you in humble prayer.

We pray that all your children may once again sing and dance the songs planted in their hearts since time immemorial. We pray that in their play and in their learning they be strengthened in wisdom and truth. May they carry the knowledge of their ancestors — those ways of life that brought abundance and joy to this pilgrimage on earth.

We pray for the children's health and wholeness; may they reconnect with your unending love that they may once again know who they are; their giftedness; and their value.

We remember those children who have found their home in you. We acknowledge those who left this earth having heard no words of apology or lament. We are grateful that you hold these ones close and have granted to them eternal peace.

As we move ahead into a time of truth telling and reconciliation:

- We pray for parents and extended family. Release them from their feeling of guilt and burden. Lift them from their grief. May their homes once again ring out with laughter and hope.
- May their communities reflect the joy of their presence? May they come together to work toward reclaiming and renewing minds, bodies, emotions and spirits.
- And finally, we pray that one day this world, your world, will be a place where children are no longer harmed and will never again be removed from a mother's embrace, or a father's helping hand.

We pray in the name of Jesus, your Son, who showed us a way to your Kingdom come on earth.

All my relations.

*By Rev. Maggie McLeod*

*Currently serving at the Saugeen First Nation, ON*

*Her late father, the Rev. Wilfred Dieter, was a student at the File Hills Indian Residential School.*

## Aboriginal Day Responsive Reading

- Leader:* Creator God,  
Cleanse our hearts from sin and brokenness as we seek  
your holy way.  
Purify our minds and let them be guided by your Word.  
Give sight to our eyes, so that we may see others as you  
have seen them.  
Open our ears, so that we may listen for your voice.  
Make us one, to worship in spirit and in truth  
and may we love you with all our strength.
- People:* We belong to you, O God.  
And our world belongs to you.

Hear us now as we call on you.  
As we humble ourselves, would you heal our land?

*Leader:* Creator God, we pray for reconciliation  
between those who were the first peoples of this land and  
those who came after.  
We live with those who lost their heritage and their lan-  
guage and their land. Our history is broken. We do not  
know how to redeem our history, we cannot make it right.  
But you are the history maker, you are the redeemer, you  
long to see us reconciled.  
You say that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord.  
We long to see your kingdom come.

*People:* We belong to you, O God.  
And our world belongs to you.  
Hear us now as we call on you.  
As we humble ourselves, would you heal our land?

*Leader:* Creator God, we celebrate what you will do.  
We celebrate the power of your resurrection working in us  
to offer hope and healing and refuge. We celebrate your love  
and, as it is offered to us, may we offer it freely to others.  
We celebrate the unity of the trinity, and we pray for that  
same unity to bring us together as we work to see your  
kingdom come, as in heaven so on earth.

*People:* We belong to you, O God.  
And our world belongs to you.  
Hear us now as we call on you.  
As we humble ourselves, would you heal our land?

Amen.

From the Christian Reformed Church at [www.crcna.org/site](http://www.crcna.org/site)

## A Prayer of Thanks for Creation

By Ellen Cook

Creator of the universe, we praise you for all creation.  
We thank you  
for the earth, giver and sustainer of life;  
for the sun, who gives us light and life and warmth;  
for the moon and stars who light our way in the night;  
for the winged animals;  
for the animals that swim in the lakes, rivers, and oceans  
and for the those who walk on land.

We also thank you  
for the plants that grow in the ground and the food and protection they  
provide;  
for the people who walk beside us and live with us in our homes.  
This is the family you have given us, and we praise your wonderful  
creation!

From *Children of the Dancing Sun, Volume IX*. Toronto: Anglican Church of Canada and  
United Church of Canada.

## Seven Directional Prayer

*(facing east)*

From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace, light, wis-  
dom and knowledge. This is the place of new beginnings in our lives.  
**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*(facing south)*

From the South comes warmth, guidance, and the fullness of life. This  
is the place of warm rains, purifying the waters to sustain all living  
things.  
**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*(facing west)*

From the West comes the sunset, reminding us to find balance of our work and rest. This is where we are reminded of our dreams and our visions.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*(facing north)*

From the North comes the cold and mighty wind, the white snows and the teachings of the elders, giving us strength and endurance.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*(facing upward)*

From the heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of our breath and messages from your winged creatures.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*(facing the centre)*

From the centre of all of our life comes your light and love, O God. It is from you that we receive the very gift of breath. We acknowledge your love for us and your presence with us each and every day.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*(facing downward)*

From Mother earth we come and to Mother earth we will return. We are grateful for your creation that is home to us. May we walk in good paths. O loving spirit, living on this earth as one family in harmony; rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one's sorrows and together with you, renewing the face of Mother earth.

**We are grateful for your creation, Mother Earth, O God. Amen.**

Source unknown.

## Prayer of Confession

By Alf Dumont

*Leader:* The drum does not beat alone, nor does the heart, in the circle of life.

*All:* How difficult it has been, O Creator, for us to be humble and caring. We so easily forget your teachings of the just and right relationships that we are to have with each other, as brothers and sisters, in this land. We so easily forget that our responsibility carries from generation to generation for all those who are hurt and oppressed and denied their place in the circle of life — those who still need our support, who need justice and peace. How difficult it is for us to remain humble as we walk the road of life. May we find peace so that we might share peace that is genuine and real, and help others to know peace within. Spirit of life, help us to walk the road of integrity back to the circle of life, where we will be truly joined by all our brothers and sisters. *Meegwetch Che Manido*. Thank you Great Spirit.

From *Mandate: The United Church of Canada Mission Magazine*, May 2005, p.30.

## Web Worship Resources

### **A New Agape: towards reconciliation and healing**

A binder of stories, official statements, reflections and worship material. Anglican Church of Canada. 2001. Download at:  
<http://www.anglican.ca/im/newagape/index.htm>

### **Antiracism Worship Resource Packet**

The Damascus Road Anti-Racism Project, Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Available at:  
[http://mcc.org/us/antiracism/resources/Antiracism\\_Worship\\_Resource\\_Packet.pdf](http://mcc.org/us/antiracism/resources/Antiracism_Worship_Resource_Packet.pdf)

### **Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network**

Worship resources from past years' study kits. Canadian Council of Churches. Download at: <http://www.ccc-cce.ca/english/justice/racism.htm>

### **The Healing and Reconciliation Liturgical Kit**

Resources on healing and reconciliation with Aboriginal people. Presbyterian Church in Canada. 2007. Download at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/resources/online/254>

### **Toward Truth and Reconciliation Worship Service**

Resources for congregations. The United Church of Canada. Download at: [www.united-church.ca/aboriginal/schools/resources/trservice](http://www.united-church.ca/aboriginal/schools/resources/trservice)

# Resources

## Websites

Aboriginal Healing Foundation: [www.ahf.ca](http://www.ahf.ca)

Assembly of First Nations: [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)

Dr. Daniel Paul: [www.danielnpaul.com](http://www.danielnpaul.com) (includes extensive links to First Nations history)

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami: [www.itk.ca](http://www.itk.ca)

Métis National Council: [www.metisnation.ca](http://www.metisnation.ca)

National Film Board: [www.nfb.ca](http://www.nfb.ca) (an extensive collection of films by Aboriginal film makers)

Remembering the Children: [www.rememberingthechildren.ca](http://www.rememberingthechildren.ca) (2008 Aboriginal and Church leaders tour to prepare for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission)

Six Nations mail-order site for Aboriginal resources: [www.goodminds.com](http://www.goodminds.com)

Truth and Reconciliation Commission: [www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca/TRC-eng.asp](http://www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca/TRC-eng.asp)

Where are the Children? [www.wherearethechildren.ca](http://www.wherearethechildren.ca) (promotes awareness among the Canadian public about residential schools and their ripple effect on Aboriginal life)

## Video resources

- Beyond Survival*. Address by Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, Indigenous Bishop in the Anglican Church in Canada. A study guide accompanies the DVD. United Church of Canada. 2009.
- Dancing the Dream*. Video of the 1993 national gathering of Anglican indigenous people at Minaki, Ontario, with stories from the residential schools, the Primate's presentation of the church's Apology and its acceptance.
- Hear Our Voices: First Nations of Canada Speak*. A four-part series that explores the social, political, economic and cultural rights of First Nations. United Church of Canada. 2004.
- Muffins for Granny*. Stories of former residential school students and Anishinabe film-maker Nadia McLaren's journey to understanding as she honours the memory of her grandmother.
- Niigaanibatoowaad: Frontrunners*. A cross-cultural DVD with a study guide to explore issues of racism, residential schools and healing. National Film Board of Canada. 2007.
- Our Healing Journey*. Stories of struggle and healing from residential school survivors by Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.
- The Healing Circle*. Video of story-telling from residential schools. Toronto: Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples. 1995.
- The Jacobsons: A Kwagu'l Family*. A two-part DVD includes stories of residential school, the role of traditional art, and the relationship between culture and faith through personal and community struggles. Questions for reflection. British Columbia: Mennonite Central Committee. <http://mcc.org/bc/aboriginalneighbours/resources.html>
- The Search for Healing*. Video of story-telling from residential school survivors. Toronto: Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples. 1995.
- The Seventh Fire*. Video of the history of the relationship between the Anglican Church of Canada and Indigenous peoples. Toronto: Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples. 1995.
- Walking a New Vision: The Fourth Sacred Circle*. Video chronicles the national Anglican Indigenous Sacred Circle gathering in 2000 that took place in Port Elgin, Diocese of Huron.
- Where the Spirit Lives*. A 1991 CBC television dramatization of a story of residential school.

## Residential schools

- A Healing Journey for Us All: Uncovering the Wounds of Empire*. A three-session study to promote healing and reconciliation. United Church of Canada. 2007.
- Breaking the Silence: An Interpretative Story of Residential School Impact and Healing as Illustrated by Stories of First Nations Individuals*. Ottawa: Assembly of First Nations. 1994.
- Communication and Reconciliation: Challenges Facing the 21st Century*. Geneva: World Council of Churches. 2001.
- From our Mothers' Arms: The Intergenerational Impact of Residential Schools in Saskatchewan*. Constance DeFter. Toronto: UCPH. 1999.
- From Truth to Reconciliation: Transforming the Legacy of Residential Schools*. Aboriginal Healing Foundation. 2008.
- Just Children: Survivors of Institutional Child Abuse Tell Their Stories* (with video). Ottawa: Law Commission of Canada. 2000.
- Justice and Reconciliation: The Legacy of Indian Residential Schools and the Journey Toward Reconciliation*. Toronto: United Church of Canada. 2002.
- Toward Justice and Right Relationship: A Beginning*. A study guide for congregations. JGER Unit, United Church of Canada. 2003.
- No Time to Say Goodbye: Children's Stories of Kuper Island Residential School*. Sylvia Olsen, Rita Morris and Am Sam. Winlaw, BC: Sono Nis Press. 2001.
- Residential Schools: Legacy and Hope — Ministry Matters Special Edition*. Toronto: Anglican Church of Canada. 2000.
- Response, Responsibility and Renewal: Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Journey*. Aboriginal Healing Foundation. 2009.
- Shingwauk's Vision: A History of Native Residential Schools*. J. R. Miller. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 1996.
- Sins of the Fathers*. David Napier. Special insert to the Anglican Journal. May 2000.
- Strong Women Stories: Native Vision and Community Survival*. Ed. by Kim Anderson and Bonita Lawrence. Toronto: Sumach Press. 2003.



*The Spirit Lives On: The Story of the Washakada Indian Home, 1888-1918 and the Anglican Residential School 1924-1949 with Special Reference to the years 1924-1949.* Harry B. Miller. Melville, SK: Seniors Consultant Service. 1990.

*Walking Together toward Healing and Reconciliation.* Three pamphlets based on consultations with Aboriginal people by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. 2004.

## General

*Aboriginal Reflection on 500 Years.* Toronto: First Nations Ecumenical Liturgical Resources. 1992.

*Blind Spots: An Examination of the Federal Government's Response to the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.* Ottawa: Aboriginal Rights Coalition (now KAIROS Indigenous Rights Committee). 2001.

*Bridges in Understanding: Aboriginal Christian Men Tell their Stories.* Eds. Joyce Clouston Carlson and Alf Dumont. Toronto: ABC Publishing. 2003.

*Bridges in Spirituality First Nations Christian Women Tell Their Stories.* Eds. Joyce Clouston Carlson and Alf Dumont. Toronto: United Church Publishing House. 1997.

*Circle and Cross: Dialogue Planning Tool.* This resource invites Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to begin a dialogue for learning and healing together. Toronto: United Church of Canada. 2008.

*Circle Works: Transforming Eurocentric Consciousness.* Fyre Jean Graveline. Toronto: Fernwood Books. 1998.

*The Colour of Democracy: Racism in Canadian Society.* Frances Henry, et al. Toronto: Harcourt Brace. 1995.

*Dancing on Live Embers: Challenging Racism in Organizations.* Tina Lopes and Barb Thomas. Toronto: Between the Lines. 2006.

*The Dancing Sun and Children of the Dancing Sun.* Church school curricula and worship resources from an Indigenous perspective. Toronto: Anglican Church of Canada and United Church of Canada.

*Enter the River: Healing Steps from White Privilege toward Racial Reconciliation.* Jody Miller Shearer. Mennonite Central Committee. (Study guide available on MCC web site.)

*First Peoples' Theology Journal.* A journal devoted to the study and expression of Indigenous theology. Vol. 1 No. 1, July 2000. "Creation and other Stories," Vol. 2 No. 1, September 2001.

"Remembering God, Indigenous Scholars Share Sacred Memories," Vol. 3, No. 1, January 2005. "Remembrance, Recognition and Reconciliation," Vol. 4, No. 1, June 2006. Minneapolis, MN: Indigenous Theological Training Institute.

*In Peace and Friendship: A New Relationship with Aboriginal Peoples.* Toronto and Ottawa: KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. 2008.

*Let Justice Flow Like a Mighty River.* The text of the brief by the CCCB to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and two workshop models covering Culture and Spirituality, Self-determination and Land Claims, and Residential Schools. Ottawa: Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. 1993.

*Medicine Wheels: Ancient Teachings for Modern Times.* Roy Wilson. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company. 2000.

*Nation to Nation: Aboriginal Sovereignty and the Future of Canada.* Editors John Bird, Lorraine Land and Murray Macadam. Toronto: Public Justice Resource Centre and Irwin Publishing. 2001.

*People to People and Nation to Nation: Highlights from the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.* Ottawa: RCAP. 1996.

*Reaching Up to God Our Creator.* This resource highlights the common ground of Aboriginal Sacred Teachings and the Bible, fostering respect and understanding among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. Winnipeg: Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre. 2008.

*Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.* Ottawa: RCAP. 1996.

*Roots of Survival — Native American Storytelling and the Sacred.* Joseph Bruchac. Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing. 1996.

*Sacred Earth, Sacred Community: Jubilee, Ecology and Aboriginal Peoples.* Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative. 2001.

*So Long as the Sun Rises and the River Flows: Land Rights and Treaty Rights.* Education and Resource Kit. Ottawa: Aboriginal Rights Coalition (now KAIROS Indigenous Rights Committee) 1997.



*That All May Be One. A Resource for Educating toward Racial Justice.* Toronto: The United Church of Canada. 2004.

*The Four Sacred Medicines; Approaching Healers, Elders and Medicine People; Sweat Lodge; Sacred Items and Bundles.* A series of pamphlets on traditional teachings by respected Elders. Anishnawbe Health Toronto. 2000.

*We are all Treaty People: Prairie Essays.* Roger Epp. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press. 2008.

*Wiciwetowin.* A study guide. Toronto: Citizens for Public Justice. 1999.

## Reconciliation programs

*Aboriginal Neighbours* is a Mennonite Central Committee program which works to repair the broken relationships between broader Canadian society and Aboriginal peoples. MCC pursues this goal as partners in God's work of reconciliation through dialogue, advocacy, and community building support.

See [www.mcc.org/canada/aboriginalneighbours](http://www.mcc.org/canada/aboriginalneighbours).

*Equipping Ambassadors of Reconciliation: Responding to the Legacy of Indian Residential Schools.* An ecumenical project of the Anglican, Presbyterian and United Churches of Canada designed to equip leaders in the churches to assist local church communities to continue to respond in a positive way to the legacy of residential schools. Train-the-trainer events will be held in several regions. For more information, contact: Lori Ransom at [Lransom@presbyterian.ca](mailto:Lransom@presbyterian.ca); Esther Wesley at [ewesley@national.anglican.ca](mailto:ewesley@national.anglican.ca); David MacDonald at [davidmacd@sympatico.ca](mailto:davidmacd@sympatico.ca).

## Healing and reconciliation funds

### Anglican Church of Canada

Anglican Healing Fund: [www.anglican.ca/rs/healing](http://www.anglican.ca/rs/healing)

### The Roman Catholic Church

The Fund for Reconciliation, Solidarity and Communion is administered by the Catholic Aboriginal Council for Reconciliation. <http://www.cccb.ca/site/content/view/2377/1027/lang,eng>

### Presbyterian Church in Canada

The Healing and Reconciliation Fund and The PCC Native Ministries' Healing and Reconciliation Fund:  
[www.presbyterian.ca/ministry/justice/healing](http://www.presbyterian.ca/ministry/justice/healing)

### United Church of Canada

The Healing Fund: [www.united-church.ca/funding/healing](http://www.united-church.ca/funding/healing)

The Justice and Reconciliation Fund:  
[www.united-church.ca/aboriginal/relationships/fund](http://www.united-church.ca/aboriginal/relationships/fund)

## Member Churches of CEARN — Web sites

**The General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada**

[www.anglican.ca](http://www.anglican.ca)

**Armenian Holy Apostolic Church, Canadian Diocese**

[www.armenianchurch.ca](http://www.armenianchurch.ca)

**The Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries**

[www.ccforum.ca](http://www.ccforum.ca)

**Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops**

[www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)

**Canadian Council of Churches**

[www.ccc-cce.ca](http://www.ccc-cce.ca)

**Christian Reformed Church in North America — Canada**

[www.crcna.ca](http://www.crcna.ca)

**Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

[www.quaker.ca](http://www.quaker.ca)

**Mennonite Church Canada**

[www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca)

**The Presbyterian Church in Canada**

[www.presbyterian.ca](http://www.presbyterian.ca)

**The United Church of Canada**

[www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)

**KAIROS Canada**

[www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org)

