

National Indigenous Day of Prayer



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The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord:
and you also are witnesses. *John 15.26, 27*

Land Acknowledgement

We gather here, mindful of the many who, for millennia, have called this valley home, or depended on it's trails for safe passage.

We know this community as Fernie; it is also the unceded territory of the Ktunaxa people. May we be good and gracious guests of this corner of Creation.

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle to share the light of Christ. Both within ourselves and with each other. May this flame remind us that we are never alone when we trust in and love God with our heart, mind, soul and strength. AMEN

Call to Worship

Leader: Gather us in, the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking, the tired and the aching who long for the nourishment found at your feast.

ALL: GATHER US IN

Leader: the done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering, the puzzled and pondering who long for the company found at your feast.

ALL: GATHER US IN

Leader: the proud and pretentious, the sure and superior, the never inferior, who long for the levelling found at your feast.

ALL: GATHER US IN

Leader: the bright and the bustling, the stirrers, the shakers, the kind laughter makers who long for the deeper joys found at your feast.

ALL: GATHER US IN

Leader: from corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite, from fears and obsession, from tears and depression, from untold excesses, from treasured successes, to meet, to eat, be given a seat, be joined to the vine, be offered new wine, become like the least, be found at the feast!

ALL: GATHER US IN!

Hymn – VU567 Will You Come and Follow Me (v.1,5)

Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be known, will you let me name be known,

will you let me life be grown in you, and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true, when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go, where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Prayer for NIDP from ACIP

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

Reader – Mary Cosman

Isaiah 40.25-31

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

'My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Philippians 4.4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

John 1.1-18

The Gospel According to John

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Hymn of Praise – MV41 – O Beautiful Gaia (v.1-4)

O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

Soil yielding its harvest, O Gaia, calling us home.
Soil yielding its harvest, calling us on.

Waves crashing on granite, O Gaia, calling us home.
Waves crashing on granite, calling us on.

Pine bending in windstorm, O Gaia, calling us home.
Pine bending in windstorm, calling us on.

Loon nesting in marshland, O Gaia, calling us home.
Loon nesting in marshland, calling us on.

O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan
Sermon – When is enough actually enough?

Prayers in the Four Directions

One: There are gifts from each of the peoples in the four directions of the world. The winds of the different directions remind us of these gifts. Let us turn now to the East. The east represents the yellow-skinned peoples of the world. This direction symbolizes new life on the earth and reminds us of our connectedness to creation. The sun rises in the east; each day is a gift; life itself is a gift. We offer the gift of tobacco to cleanse us. Help us to be mindful of the new life offered in your Son, we pray.

All: Creator, Great Mystery, hear our prayer.

One: We turn to face South. South represents warmth and growth. This direction represents women, the doorway to life. The colour of the south is black, representing the black-skinned peoples of the world. May we be encouraged to walk through the doorway to life and light. We offer the gift of cedar to clear our minds and thoughts. Warm our lives with the passion of the Good News in Jesus Christ.

All: Creator, Great Mystery, hear our prayer.

One: We turn to face West. West, symbolized by the colour red, represents the gift of rest, the passing of time and of those who have gone before. Aboriginal peoples of the earth are symbolized in this direction. We offer the gift of sage to clear away the darkness and despair. Fill us with the deep peace of Jesus as the darkness of night wraps around us and brings us to a new dawning.

All: Creator, Great Mystery, hear our prayer.

One: We turn to face North. North is symbolized by the colour white, and represents coolness and the white-skinned of the world. A gift of this direction is clarity of vision and a sense of the strength we need to live each day. We offer the gift of sweetgrass to enlighten our minds. Creator of Wisdom, teach us to love as Jesus loves, and to see him in all our relations.

All: Creator, Great Mystery hear our prayer.

One: We turn to complete the circle and to look:
To God who cleanses our Earth
With snow, wind and rain.
To Jesus Christ who fills us with the wideness of mercy and
Lovingly embraces us all,
And to the Holy Spirit who inspires us.

All: Creator, source of all healing, your hear the deepest prayers of our hearts, touch the lives for all whom we have prayed with the healing only you can give.

Creator, we offer the gifts of sweet grass, tobacco, sage and cedar¹ as a prayer for purification and as a reminder for those gathered here to cleanse our thoughts and hearts that we may hear and be guided by your word and direction.

We thank you for all our relations:
the four leggeds, the wingeds,
the star people of the heavens
and all living things you have blessed us with to sustain this life.

Empower each of us through the bringer of Peace,
your Son Jesus,
to see and change for better the common life
of all people and creation.

¹ This offering reflects several indigenous cultural contexts in Canada, and is to be adapted as appropriate to the local culture, or the prayer may open with “we offer our prayers for purification... asking you to cleanse...”

Hear our prayers this day and everyday.
Accept our thanks for all the blessings you have given us,
and for the opportunities to use these blessings
for your honour and glory in service to others. Amen

Hymn of Praise – MV144 – Like a Healing Stream (v.1-4)

Like a healing stream, in a barren desert,
Spirit water bring life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives, as in a dream unfolding
promising revival and rebirth, like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain, on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through our soil, to coax a new creation
yearning for an end to want and need, like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong, with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war, like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea, reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!

like a might sea,
like a river strong,
like a gentle rain,
like a healing stream.

Confession

Creator and Loving God, we want to say we're sorry for all the times we have separated ourselves from you and closed our hearts to your give-aways. We have not always respected the gifts you have given us so that they will be there for the seventh generation. Forgive us and help us to walk the sacred path shown to us by the Great Peacemaker Jesus Christ. AMEN

Absolution

Celebrant: May the Creator forgive us, may Jesus renew us, and the Holy Spirit enable us to grow in love. AMEN

Prayers of the People

A Litany for the Healing and Restoration of our Church

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

All: Have mercy on us.

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

All: Have mercy on us.

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

All: Have mercy on us.

One: Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,

All: Have mercy on us.

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

All: Saviour, forgive and heal us.

One: From our participation in the systemic oppression of Indigenous sovereignty, language, culture and spirituality,

All: Saviour, forgive and heal us.

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

All: Saviour, forgive and heal us.

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

All: Saviour, forgive and heal us.

One: Oh 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.

All: Hear us, O Christ.

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

All: Hear us, O Christ.

One: Touch our hearts, that we may hear from every mouth of every people the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

All: Hear us, O Christ.

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

All: Hear us, O Christ.

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

All: Hear us, O Christ.

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

All: 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

Meditations on 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 trials 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 for ever. AMEN

Minute for Mission

Mary Elson

Offertory Hymn

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures high and low

Give thanks to God in love made known

Creator, Word and Spirit, One

Prayer Over the Gifts

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

Concluding Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray. In gratitude for this moment, and these people, we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us.

So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. AMEN

Blessing

ONE: From this place we are connected to each other...

Though your faith may differ from mine, and your language be unfamiliar to me, we are each created in a spirit of love.

ALL: From this place we are responsible for each other...

Though we may be worlds apart, boundaries of land, race, economics, and religion can have no meaning and borders fall away if you are in need.

ONE: From this place we reach out to each other...

And together we will seek justice, respect creation, grow in faith, and build the future.

ALL: From this place we bless each other...

We give thanks for your being, we bless your creation, made in the image of God who delights in you and cherishes you.

Extinguishing the Paschal Candle

As we prepare to continue with our day
we extinguish our candles, knowing
we will be together again, soon.

Sending Song – Don't Be Afraid

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
and I have promised, promised to be always near. (2x)

Upcoming this week:

Reverend Andrea is on vacation from this afternoon until Sunday the 28th.
In the event of pastoral emergency, please call Catherine Ripley or Lynda Bird.

Our next worship:

Sunday 5 July @ 10:00 am – United-style worship

Worship Resources:

The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from the National Indigenous Day of Prayer (NIDP), Anglican Council of Indigenous Persons (ACIP), New Zealand Prayer Book, 600 Blessings and Prayers from Around the World, The Book of Occasional Celebrations, Voices United and More Voices.