



A Liturgy for National Indigenous Day of Prayer
Prepared by the Bishop's Liturgical Advisory Panel
2024-05-24

This liturgy is authorized for use in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa for observances of National Indigenous Day of Prayer (June 21st or the Sunday before or after).

You may use the Prayers of the People, Confession and Absolution and Proper Prayers and readings from this service without using the whole liturgy.

New Testament readings can be taken from the [First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament](#).

Suggestions for service music from “Sing a New Creation: A Supplement to Common Praise”:

Moosonee setting (Sanctus #216; Acclamation #220; Lamb of God #230)
Red Lake Mass (Sanctus #217; Christ Our Passover #225)
Lord's Prayer (#223)

Suggestions for hymns from “Common Praise 1998”:

Many and Great O God (CP #407)
Come O God of All the Earth (CP #589)
Let Streams of Living Justice (CP #575)
For the Healing of the Nations (CP #576)

A Liturgy for National Indigenous Day of Prayer

The Gathering of the Community

A hymn may be sung.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Our Diocese of Ottawa was founded on the homeland of the Anishinaabe Algonquin.
May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

Silence may be kept

Honouring the Four Directions

The congregation is invited to turn in the four directions as indicated below.

Come Great Spirit, as we gather in your name.

We face East:

To your symbol colour red, the hue of revelation;

To your animal symbol the Eagle, strong and nurturing;

To your lessons calling us to the balance of your Spirit in harmony with others;

To invoke your wisdom and grace, the goodness of the ages,

We pray: **Come to us, Great Spirit.**

We turn to face South:

To your symbol colour gold for the morning star;

To your symbol Brother Sun that enlightens our intellect and brings light on our path to live responsibly;

To your lessons calling us to balance of mind in the spirit of humility;

To invoke your spirit of illumination and far sighted vision; help us to love you and one another with our whole heart, our whole mind, and our whole soul,

We pray: **Come to us, Great Spirit.**

We turn to face West:

To your symbol colour black, still and quiet;

To your animal symbol the Thunderbird;

To your symbol the thunder mighty and purposeful;

To your lessons calling us to balance our emotions in the spirit of gentleness and honesty;

To invoke your spirit of introspection, seeing within;

Give us your strength and the courage to endure,

We pray: **Come to us, Great Spirit.**

We turn to face North:

To your symbol colour white of clarity and brightness;

To your animal symbol the swan which brings us in touch with Mother Earth and growing things;

To your lessons calling us to balance of our body in the spirit of a good sense of humor;

To invoke your spirit of innocence, trust and love;

Help us to open our eyes to the sacredness of every living thing,

We pray: **Come to us, Great Spirit.**

We turn to complete the circle and to look:

To God, our Creator who cleanses our Mother Earth with snow, wind and rain;

To Jesus Christ, the Peacemaker who fills us with the wideness of mercy and lovingly embraces all, and the Holy Spirit who inspires us to action,

Come to us, Great Spirit.

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

First Reading Isaiah 40:25-31

“To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God”? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, * and the firmament shows the handiwork of the Lord.

One day tells its tale to another, * and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, * and their voices are not heard, their sound has gone out into all lands, * and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has God set a pavilion for the sun; * it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; * nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; * the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; * the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; * the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, * more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, * than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, * and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often they offend? * Cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; * let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, * and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight; * O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about

such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.
Thanks be to God.

A hymn, chant or acclamation may be sung.

The Gospel John 1:1-18

From the First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament.

Note: the names in brackets are normally not said when reading aloud.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Long ago, in the time before all days, before the creation of all things, the one who is known as the Word was there face to face with the Great Spirit. This Word fully represents Creator and shows us who he is and what he is like. He has always been there from the beginning, for the Word and Creator are one and the same.

Through the Word all things came into being, and not one thing exists that he did not create. Creator's life shined out from the Word, giving light to all human beings. This is the true Light that comes to all the peoples of the world and shines on everyone. The Light shines into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it or put it out.

Into the wilderness of the Land of Promise (*Judea*) came a man named Gift of Goodwill (*John*). He was sent by the Great Spirit to tell what he knew about the Light so everyone could believe. He was not the Light but came to speak the truth about the Light. The true Light that shines on all people was coming into the darkness of this world.

He came down into this world, and even though he made all things, the world did not recognize him. Even his own tribe did not welcome or honor him. But all who welcome and trust him receive their birthright as children of the Great Spirit. They are born in a new way, not from a human father's plans or desires, but born from above—by the Great Spirit.

Creator's Word became a flesh-and-blood human being and pitched his sacred tent among us, living as one of us. We looked upon his great beauty and saw how honorable he was, the kind of honor held only by this one Son who fully represents his Father—full of his great kindness and truth.

Gift of Goodwill (*John*) told what he knew about him and cried out with a loud voice, “The one I have told you about is here! He comes after me, but is much greater—my elder! He has more honor, for even though he is thought to be younger, he existed before I was born.”

From the fullness of his being we have all had many gifts of kindness poured out on us. Drawn from the Water (*Moses*) gave us our tribal laws, but the gift of great kindness and truth came from Creator Sets Free (*Jesus*), the Chosen One.

No one has ever seen the Great Spirit, but the one Son, who is himself the Great Spirit and closest to the Father’s heart, has shown us what he is like.

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Credal Hymn (Common Praise, #44 or #46)

Prayers of the People

A deacon or lay member of the community leads the prayers.

Presider 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.

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 it to:
Teach us and show us the way.

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:
Teach us and show us the way.

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:
Teach us and show us the way.

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:
Teach us and show us the way.

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:

Teach us and show us the way.

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:

Teach us and show us the way.

Presider 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 hearts soar, for you speak to us in Jesus the Christ, in whose name we offer these prayers. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Confession lets us set down the heavy things we carry with us, putting us in right relationship with God and with one another.

Silence

For all that separates our hearts from God and all that closes our eyes to God's love: **Jesus, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.**

Silence

For what we have done, left undone, and what has been done on our behalf: **Jesus, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.**

Silence

For the pride that prevents us from forgiving others, as we have been forgiven: **Jesus, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.**

A deacon or lay person using the following form of absolution substitutes "us" for "you" and "our" for "your."

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 Saviour. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

A hymn may be sung during the Preparation of the Gifts.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

God the Creator is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God the Creator

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer our thanks and praise.

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 saints, and all our ancestors as we sing (say):

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

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:

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 saints and angels, with the heavenly community which gives you worship forever, may we also live in unity and live as relatives to all.

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, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Whoever comes to me shall not hunger
and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

So, come to the table, you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The Communion

Prayer after Communion

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.**

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. 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 Saviour, who redeems and befriends us; and the Spirit, who enlightens and sustains us, be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

A hymn may be sung.

This liturgy is adapted from one prepared by All Saint's Church, Minneapolis, MN. 'Honouring the Four Directions' prepared for a Day of Prayer for Indigenous Justice, Jan. 11, 2013; Collect and Proper Prayers from the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, for National Indigenous Day of Prayer. Prayers of the People from The Church of the Four Winds, Portland Oregon; Confession and Absolution from University Episcopal Community at The University of MN; Eucharistic Prayer revised from the Liturgy of St. John's, Red Lake, MN and adapted from a *NZ Maori Prayer Book*; The Breaking of the Bread from *Communion Blessing*, Christopher Peters; Blessing attributed to The Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong.

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