

**Song** Just as I am

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

<sup>7</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Almighty God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Sovereign Lord of the universe,  
Creator of humankind,  
we, your unfaithful children,  
sincerely believe and confess in our hearts  
that only through the precious blood  
of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary,  
can we obtain your forgiveness.  
We repent that: in thought, word or deed,  
we have committed serious offences against you and our neighbours.  
In laziness, despair and lust for power,  
we have provoked hatred, division and hurt within our communities.  
In greed, deceit and indifference,  
we have caused serious damage, unnecessary conflict  
and aggravated destruction to our brothers and sisters.  
In selfishness, insensitivity and bias,  
we have encouraged and emboldened those who inflict hurt,  
pain and sorrow on our loved ones and families.  
In the name of religion, doctrine and even of Christ himself,  
we have wounded believers and pursuers of holiness and faith.  
Mercifully send Your Holy Spirit,  
the Spirit of order and comfort,  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness;  
restore in us true faith in Christ which brings truth, peace and harmony;**

**and help us to walk together with our brothers and sisters  
in the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of your name.  
Lord In your mercy,  
Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father,  
Creator and Sustainer of all life,  
all cultures, and all relationships.  
Today we lift up to you the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.  
We pray for Indigenous communities and families.  
We pray that you would strengthen, protect, provide for,  
and encourage First Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities  
and Indigenous peoples living in urban centres, rural locations and on reserves.  
We pray for healing for individuals, families, and communities  
that are still experiencing and struggling with the impacts of the Indian Residential  
School System and the broader impacts of colonialism.  
Lord, we bring before you Indigenous children,  
families, and communities  
and all those who have suffered injustice and atrocities in Your name.  
Father, we pray for equity in education,  
housing, access to water, and opportunities for Indigenous people in this land.  
We lift up each of the unique and individual Indigenous cultures,  
traditions, and languages –may You protect them and strengthen them.  
May You give wisdom and insight to Indigenous leaders  
and community members who work tirelessly to pass cultural practices,  
traditions, and languages to their fellow community members  
and also to the younger generations who will lead their communities in the  
future.  
Father, may You open our eyes to see  
the bounty and gifts Indigenous Peoples have to offer.  
We pray that we as a church  
will encourage all people to learn the truth  
of our collective Canadian history  
and work towards reconciliation, understanding,  
and respect of Indigenous cultures, traditions, and world views.  
In His name, we pray.  
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

## **Prayer of a white settler** By Shannon Neufeldt

### **Creator God,**

I come to you with a humble heart,  
So grateful for Your creation,  
this place I am in.

The land is full of Your glory this day.  
Sunlight sparkles on fresh green leaves.  
Bees buzz as trees burst into bloom.

Even as dew collects on dandelion leaves,  
Or raindrops gather in boiling thunderclouds,  
A morning sip of lifegiving water deepens my gratitude  
for the life that teams across Turtle Island.

### **O Creator, perfect Host,**

Your care and compassion were, and are,  
echoed in the generous hospitality  
of the original peoples - Indigenous peoples.

But the reciprocal relationships of host and guest  
have been shattered.  
And the pain continues.  
For the death and destruction, I pour out my sorrow in lamentations.

It is for the sins of my own heart that I seek forgiveness.  
Cleanse me of the thoughts and emotions  
that keep those relationships from healing -  
wash away the toxic entitlement, prejudiced assumptions, defensive disinterest.

### **O Creator, faithful Guide,**

Show me the path towards right relations,  
Shape not only my words and deeds,  
but even more, my reactions and thoughts.

Open my heart to the wonder, the beauty, the gifts  
of the person next to me,

the protestor on the news,  
the culture so different from my own.

Expose my racism,  
Root out my deep-seated fear of change,  
That I may be healed within,  
even as I try to be part of the healing of Your world.

Amen.

### **Psalm 139: 1 – 18, 23 – 24**

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup> **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> **Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.**

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> **If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> **even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,"

<sup>12</sup> **even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.**

- <sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.**
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>16</sup> **Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.**
- <sup>17</sup> How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup> **I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.**
- <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.
- <sup>24</sup> **See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

Prayer of Lament by Rev. Maggie McLoud, daughter of File Hills School Survivor

O God,  
we come before you with pain in our hearts as 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 on their bodies remains. We remember the parents, the aunties; the uncles; the grandmas and grandpas left to grieve the empty places in their home 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. (Pause in remembrance)

We acknowledge those who left this earth having heard no words of apology or lament.

We are grateful that you hold these ones close.

May they find in you the peace and rest that eluded them on this Earth.

We pray for parents and extended family, too. Release them from their feeling of guilt and burden. Help them to express their grief. May their homes once again ring out with laughter and hope. May communities reflect the joy of family life once again. May young and old 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, Amen.**

Let us remember and hold, in silence, the 215 Children whose unmarked graves were found at Kamloops Indian Residential School. One minute of Silence.

**God of our Ancestors,  
who holds the spirits of our grandmothers and grandfathers**

and the spirits of our grandchildren,  
Remembering the Children,  
we now pledge ourselves to speak the Truth,  
and with our hearts and our souls  
to act upon the Truth we have heard of the injustices lived,  
of the sufferings inflicted,  
of the tears cried,  
of the misguided intentions imposed,  
and of the power of prejudice and racism  
which were allowed to smother the sounds  
and laughter of the forgotten children.  
Hear our cries of lament  
for what was allowed to happen,  
and for what will never be.  
In speaking and hearing  
and acting upon the Truth  
may we as individuals  
and as a nation  
meet the hope of a new beginning.  
Great Creator God  
who desires that all creation  
live in harmony and peace,  
Remembering the Children  
we dare to dream of a Path of Reconciliation  
where apology from the heart  
leads to healing of the heart  
and the chance of restoring the circle,  
where justice walks with all,  
where respect leads to true partnership,  
where the power to change comes from each heart.  
Hear our prayer of hope,  
and guide this country of Canada  
on a new and different path.  
Amen

Archbishop Mark MacDonald

We are still here liturgy

Indigenous:

**We are still here, on Turtle Island, placed by the Creator.**

Non-Indigenous:

**Some of us came seeking home, displaced or persecuted.**

Indigenous:

**And we were here, diverse nations, many peoples—at home.**

Non-Indigenous:

**Some of us came seeking adventure, riches or glory.**

Indigenous:

**And we were here, living with deep connection to the land.**

Non-Indigenous:

**Some of us came seeking a better life, security and possibility.**

Indigenous:

**We offered peace and friendship**

Non-Indigenous:

**And some of us accepted, treaty people, living in relationship.**

Indigenous:

**We shared the land, and our deep wisdom of this place.**

Non-Indigenous:

**And some of us were open to hear.**

Indigenous:

**At first you were few and we were many.**

Non-Indigenous:

**And then we were many, with greater and greater hunger for land.**

Indigenous:

**The land of our ancestors, our identity.**

Non-Indigenous:

**The land we imagined could be ours.**

Indigenous:

**At first we were friends and allies**

Non-Indigenous:

**Then you became enemy, in the way of what we wanted.**

Indigenous:

**We shared and still share a deep reverence for life gifted from the Creator**

Non-Indigenous:



**We seemed unable to recognize your faith, seeking to impose our own.**

Indigenous:

**We believed we could live side by side, two boats in the same river.**

Non-Indigenous:

**We could only imagine you becoming like us.**

Indigenous:

**You spoke benefit but brought harm.**

Non-Indigenous:

**Trying to dissolve you into our image.**

Indigenous:

**You brought unspeakable pain**

Non-Indigenous:

**Abuses of power, holding tight to a sense of superiority.**

Indigenous:

**You took our children from us**

Non-Indigenous:

**Breaking sacred bonds of kinship.**

Indigenous:

**Your gospel of love distorted by hate.**

Non-Indigenous:

**How could we have been so wrong?**

Indigenous:

**Your ways tried to break us.**

Non-Indigenous:

**But still you rise.**

Indigenous:

**Your vision tried to disappear us.**

Non-Indigenous:

**But still you stand.**

Indigenous:

**We are resilience and strength.**

Non-Indigenous:

**We are beginning to understand.**

Indigenous:

**We are coming home to our traditions.**

Non-Indigenous:

**We still seek home, but now alongside and with you.**

Indigenous:

**You are facing this truth.**

Non-Indigenous:

**We are listening, unlearning, and learning anew.**

Indigenous:

**Stand beside us in acts of justice.**

Non-Indigenous:

**Receive our contrition, embodied in solidarity.**

Indigenous:

**May the Creator's plan be fulfilled**

Non-Indigenous:

**For right relation in this place**

All:

**Finally come to be. Amen**

Prayers of the people

Leader:

Creator, the strength of the people, we honor you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. We respect the truth of your word and care for your Creations to the east, 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. Come Great Spirit as we gather in your name.

Leader:

Let us pray for the Peoples of the East.

(Congregation may add their petitions here)

The east, the place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning, there the seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honor life around them, all who honor life within, shall shine with your light and glory, O God our Creator, when the morning comes again. **Amen.**

Leader:

Let us pray for the Peoples of the South.

(Congregation may add their petitions here)

In the South, the place of growing you have placed wisdom in the earth, both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. We mourn as the earth receives her children to go unto you Creator, and we rejoice at the new heartbeats you have

started. We give thanks and praise to you for the holy ground beneath our feet.  
**Amen.**

Leader:

Let us pray for the Peoples of the West.

(Congregation may add their petitions here)

The West, the place of seeing, there is born a vision of the servant of servants, who proclaimed the Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace. Thank you for your love and salvation through Jesus, the Son. Thank you, Lord, for walking into our life and for pitching your tent amongst us. **Amen**

Leader:

Let us pray for the Peoples of the North.

(Congregation may add their petitions here)

We look to you, God our Creator, as you cleanse our earth with snow, wind, and rain. To you, Jesus, to fill us with mercy and grace. Thank you that you lovingly embrace all Peoples. We pray, Holy Spirit, come and inspire us. **Amen.**

Leader:

Let us bring to God all those who need our prayers.

(Petitions in silence or out loud)

Creator God Prayer written by Carol Penner

Prayer lead by Diane

Creator God

thank you for indigenous and Inuit communities,  
strong after centuries of persecution.

Families with deep bonds of love,  
wise with elders, rich in culture, lovers of the land,  
speaking with powerful voices that cannot be silenced.

God of justice, God of love,  
hear our prayer of lament for crimes committed:  
for land taken, for children stolen.  
for laws that hobbled culture,  
for languages legislated out of existence,

for racist policies of every kind  
that produced a wicked harvest of poverty.  
You know how this toxic power dynamic  
has warped the minds of oppressors  
and left deep and lasting scars in the oppressed.  
We live in uneasy times,  
where hatred and prejudice are rampant,  
and important decisions are being made  
about the occupied traditional territories  
where we live together.

Into this world, you sent the Prince of Peace,  
who managed to balance justice and love  
through his death on the cross.  
Christ is the one who will help us find the way,  
giving us ears to hear every voice,  
and mouths to speak repentance,  
and eyes to see paths we should walk,  
and hands that reach out in friendship,  
and shoulders willing to take on the burden  
of our shared past.  
From this place of brokenness give all of us

a vision of the future, peace-bright,  
where children of every colour  
have a place to stand, and a place to grow.

Let us pray

**God of justice and forgiveness,  
Guide us as we continue on our pathways to Reconciliation. Grant us the  
courage to speak out against the injustices that our brothers and sisters  
continue to suffer. Help us to see with new eyes, to listen to the stories and to  
feel with a heart of compassion. Help us to build right relations with each other  
based on truth and justice. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Creator, Maker, Sustainer,

we come and give thanks for this day! Thank you that we can see your faithfulness to us in the rising of the sun each day. Father, we praise you and honour you for the gift of Jesus and the Great Spirit. Let our response be to love one another, walk alongside another and help one another. Help us to see the rich beauty of different cultures. Confront us with your Spirit when our thoughts and behaviours do not bring honour and peace. Creator we give thanks for the many people who work tirelessly to restore relationships between non-Indigenous and Indigenous people. Specifically, we want to lift up the ministries of your people in the places where you have placed them. Bless their efforts with joy and peace. Please continue to gift us with peace, joy and love as we continue to journey together until Jesus returns and we can all fall on our knees at your throne, praying, dancing and singing "Hallelujah to our Creator Redeemer and Sustainer."

Leader: Gathering our prayers into one, we pray as our Saviour taught us.

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.**

Blessing Bishop Geoff

May the Creator watch over you,  
May the Spirit guide and lead you.  
May Jesus be present in all that you do.  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Be with you, within you, and surrounding you and those you love,  
This day and always. **Amen.**

## **2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Read by Vince**

<sup>7</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Song Comfort My people

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Creator, our Lord and our God