

## **Welcome:**

**Welcome to Friday evening Worship, we recognize we are on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people.**

**Our worship this evening is in honour of our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters.**

**I am Trudy Cole and I come to you from the Parish of St. Timothy's and St. Paul's of Hatchet Lake and Terence Bay. Thank you for joining us this evening, isn't it great that we can be together as a faith family.**

**May the fire and our worship tonight ignite in us a burning desire to draw even closer to Christ.**

**To quote St. Paul from his letter to the Romans:**

**Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. <sup>9</sup> For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, <sup>10</sup> asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup> For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— <sup>12</sup> or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. <sup>13</sup> I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as I have among the rest of the Gentiles.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**Psalm 121:1-2**

**I lift my eyes up to the hills, where does my help come from?**

**My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. AMEN**

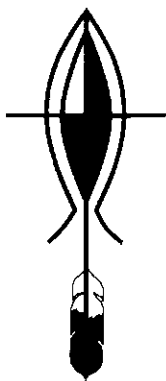
## **INDIGENOUSE PRAYER**

OH, GREAT SPIRIT, WHOSE  
VOICE I HEAR IN THE WINDS;  
WHOSE BREATH GIVES LIFE TO THE WORLD;  
HEAR ME. I COME TO YOU AS ONE OF  
YOUR MANY CHILDREN.  
I AM SMALL AND WEAK.  
I NEED YOUR STRENGTH AND WISDOM.  
MAY I WALK IN YOUR BEAUTY.

MAY MY EYES BEHOLD THE RED AND PURPLE  
SUNSET.  
MAKE MY HANDS RESPEPCT THE THINGS YOU HAVE MADE,  
MAKE MY EARS SHARP TO YOUR VOICE.  
MAKE ME WISE SO THAT I MAY KNOW THE THINGS  
YOU HAVE TAUGHT YOUR CHILDREN:  
THE LESSONS YOU HAVE WRITTEN IN EVERY LEAF  
AND ROCK.  
MAKE ME STRONG, NOT TO BE SUPERIOR TO MY  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BUT TO FIGHT MY  
GREATEST ENEMY..... MYSELF.

MAKE ME EVER READY TO COME TO YOU WITH  
STRAIGHT EYES SO THAT WHEN LIFE FADES,  
AS THE FADING SUNSET, MY SPIRIT MAY COME TO YOU WITHOUT SHAME.

-Anonymous



## Honouring the Four Directions

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 brothers and sisters;  
To invoke your wisdom and grace, the goodness of the ages,  
We pray: ***COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME.***

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 HOLY SPIRIT, COME.***

This resource was prepared for a Day of Prayer for Indigenous Justice, Jan. 11, 2013,  
when Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders gathered in Ottawa to discuss important  
legislation affecting Indigenous Peoples.

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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 HOLY SPIRIT, COME.**

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 HOLY SPIRIT, COME.**

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 HOLY SPIRIT, COME.**

***(Note: There are several interpretations of the colours of the  
medicine wheel. A Cree adaptation is used here. We apologize if this  
conflicts with what is used in your Nation. Please adapt to your local  
area.)***

### The Collect for the Day

*The Collect provided or a prayer said by an elder of the community in the language of the people.*

**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**

## **Genesis 1-11,31    NSRV**

In the beginning when God created<sup>[a]</sup> the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God<sup>[b]</sup> swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so.

<sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**The word of the Lord.**

# Prayer Response Is We give you thanks, O Lord

## Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's Creation

**Leader:** To be a human being is an honor, and we offer thanksgiving for all the gifts of life.

**Response:** We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** Mother Earth, we thank you for giving us everything we need.

**Response:** We give you thanks, O lord.

**Leader:** We thank you, deep blue waters around Mother Earth, for you are the force that takes thirst away from all living things.

**Response:** We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** We give thanks to green grasses that feel so good against our bare feet, for the cool beauty you bring to Mother Earth's floor.

**Response:** We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** Thank you, good foods from Mother Earth, our life sustainers, for making us happy when we are hungry.

**Response:** We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** Fruits and berries, we thank you for your color and sweetness. We are all thankful to good medicine herbs, for healing us when we are sick.

**Response:** We give thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** Thank you, all the animals of the world, for keeping our precious forests clean. All the trees in the world, we are thankful for the shade and warmth you give us. Thank you all the birds in the world, for singing your beautiful songs.

**Response:** We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** We give thanks to you, gentle Four Winds, for bringing clean air for us to breathe from the four directions.

**Response:** We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** Elder Brother Sun, we send thanks for shining your light and warming Mother Earth,

**Response:** We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** Thank you, Grandmother Moon, for growing full every month to light the darkness for children and sparkling waters.

**Response:** We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** We give you thanks, twinkling stars, for making the night sky so beautiful and for sprinkling morning dew drops on the plants.

**Response:** We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** Spirit Protectors of our past and present, we thank you for showing us ways to live in peace and harmony with one another.

**Response:** We give you thanks, O Lord.

**All:** Most of all, thank you, Creator God and Great Spirit, for giving us all these wonderful gifts so that we will be happy and healthy every day and every night.  
**Amen.**

(Adapted from: "Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message" author: Chief Jake Swamp (Tekaronianeken); Lee & Low Books, New York, (1995)).

**Blessing:**

May the Creator watch over you.

May the Spirit guide and lead you.

May Jesus make himself 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.