



**National Indigenous Day  
Service of Lament  
Sunday, June 20, 2021**

## **PRELUDE**

*(music: By All Your Saints ELW #421)*

Smudging around the Sacred Fire

*(music: Abide With Me ELW #629)*

Lighting of 215 Memorial Candles

## **PROCESSION**

*(music: Healer of Every Ill ELW #612)*

*The Presider and Assistants will enter carrying the four sacred medicines: tobacco, sage, sweetgrass and cedar. Medicines will be placed on altar accordingly.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Spirit of Creator be with you.

**And also with you. Come let us worship the Creator with hearts open to all peoples, where pride and prejudice once dwelt;**

Let us worship Creator with minds open to the wisdom of Indigenous people, Let us honour the one who freely gives by showing honour to those who were once and still remain oppressed.

Let us worship the God of diversity, who made the world in colour, in seasons and endless variety, who created the diversity of the earth's peoples in Creator's image.

**We were created to honour one another and in so doing we honour the Creator, let us honour the Creator today, by reflecting in our worship and in life, the Creator's image: love. All my relations.**

## **SMUDGING CEREMONY**

*(music: You are Holy ELW #525)*

The smudging ceremony is like a prayer of confession as we purify our minds and hearts. Reach out for the smoke and draw it into your heart.

## **PRAYERS TO THE FOUR DIRECTIONS**

*(For the Healing of the Land, Rupert's Land Indigenous Council 2003 16 12 Huron LAIC, for National Aboriginal Day of Prayer 2001)*

Creator, we offer the burning of sweetgrass, tobacco, sage and cedar 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 legged, the winged, 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. Hear our prayers this day and every day. 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. Miigwech.

Come Great Spirit, as we gather in your name. We face East: here 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.

To your symbol colour – Yellow for the morning star. To your animal sign – the Eagle which can soar ever upward in praise of God and calls us to do the same. 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 love you and one another with our whole heart, our whole mind, and our whole soul, we pray. The east represents the yellow-skinned peoples of the world. This direction symbolizes new life on the earth and reminds us of our connection to creation. The sun rises in the east; each day is a gift; life itself is a gift. Help us to be mindful of the new life offered in your Son, we pray. Holy God, God of many names. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the east; the spirits of all people of the east who have gone before us, the spirits of those who are yet to come. We pray for all people who now live to the east of us. (Particular intentions may be named.) We thank you for the colour yellow, the sacred colour of the east, the colour of the rising sun. When the sun rises we offer our prayers to you, thanking you for the new day, for new opportunities, for new beginnings, for hope. Each new day reminds us of your faithfulness to us, your people.

We thank you for the medicine of the east, tobacco. When we offer the tobacco, we thank you for our children, those who carry the future of our people in their lives. Tobacco, like children, needs protection, nurture and cultivation in order to grow. Help us, Creator God, to care properly for the lives of the children which you have entrusted to us; to honour and respect them, to protect them, and to learn from them. We thank you for Jesus, your son, whom we honour at the beginning of each new day. We thank you that he lived among us as a baby, a child, a youth and a young man.

**Awaken in us new dreams and hope**  
**Come, Great Spirit, come.**

Come Great Spirit, come. We turn to face South (turn) To your symbol colour –Red, the hue of revelation. To your animal symbol – the Buffalo, strong and nurturing. To your lessons calling us to the balance of our Spirit in Harmony with brothers and sisters. To invoke your wisdom and grace and the goodness of the ages, we pray: Come Great Spirit, come. We turn to face South. South represents warmth and growth. This direction represents women, the doorway to life. The colour of the south is red, representing the aboriginal peoples of the world. May we be encouraged to walk through the doorway to life and light. Give us your strength and courage to endure, we pray. Holy God, Creator of all.

We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the south; the spirits of all those to the south of us who have gone before us, the spirits of

those who are yet to come. We pray for all the people who now live to the south of us. (Particular intentions may be named) We thank you for the colour red, the sacred colour of the south, the colour of warmth and love. We thank you for all the emotions you have placed in our hearts; emotions which you share with us and ask us to share with each other. We thank you for the medicine of the south, cedar. When we offer the cedar, we thank you for all who nurture the youth among us. We remember these people when we see the green boughs of the cedar throughout the seasons of the year. We thank you for Jesus, your son; for Mary his mother, and for Ann his grandmother. We thank you that he befriended and ministered lovingly to women during his life, and that he first appeared to women at his resurrection.

**Come, Great Spirit, come.**

Come Great Spirit, come. We turn to face West: To your symbol colour – Black, still and quiet. To your animal symbol – the Bear. 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: West, symbolized by the colour black, represents the gift of rest, the passing of time and of those who have gone before. The black skinned peoples of the earth are symbolized in this direction. Give us the wisdom and grace to use your gifts of time and leisure well, we pray. Holy God, God of darkness and of light. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the west; the spirits of all those to the west of us who have gone before us, the spirits of those yet to come. We pray for all people who now live to the west of us.

We thank you for the colour black, the sacred colour of the west, the colour of wisdom and knowledge. As the sun sets in the west and the darkness of night comes upon us, we thank you for all we have learned during the day, all the insight we have received from you so that we might share it with others when daylight returns. We thank you for the medicine of the west, sage. When we offer the sage, we thank you for our elders who carry within them the experience gained through life. Help us, Creator God, to respect our elders, to seek out their knowledge and to make use of it for the good of our people. Help us to care for our old people and to include them in the lives of their families and communities. We thank you for Jesus, your son, who as a young man carried within himself the wisdom and knowledge given by you, God for all times and ages. We also thank you that Jesus will meet us at the darkness at the end of our earthly life and lead us to the brightness of the eternal life.

**Come, Great Spirit, come**

Come Great Spirit, come. We turn to face North: To your symbol colour – White of clarity and brightness. To your animal symbol – the Quetzal which brings us in touch with earthiness and growing things. To your lessons calling us to balance of our Body in the Spirit of a good sense of humour.

To invoke your Spirit of Innocence, Trust and Love. Help us to open our eyes to the sacredness of every living thing, we pray: 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. Help us to see more clearly your role for us, especially in the Stewardship and healing of Mother Earth, we pray. Prayers for the North Holy God, Mysterious One. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the north; the spirits of all people to the north who have gone before us, the spirits of those who are yet to come. We pray for all people who now live to the north of us. (Particular intentions may be named)

We thank you for the colour white, the sacred colour of the north, the colour of the blanket of snow which covers mother earth while she sleeps. We are reminded of the purity of the white snow, the purity you expect in the lives of your people, the purity which comes when you forgive our mistakes. We thank you for the medicine of the north, sweetgrass. As we offer the sweetgrass we thank you for our spiritual elders who teach us of your forgiveness. We thank you that as we burn the sweetgrass we are purified from uncleanness and are then able to find your presence in our lives.

Help us, Creator God, to respect our spiritual leaders and to assist them in their journey among us. Help those of us who are spiritual leaders to be conscious of the responsibility given to us by you and by our people. Help all your people to turn to you for forgiveness and purity of life. We thank you for Jesus, your son, by whose blood we are washed clean of our sins and made as white as the snow.

**Teach us to use with care your gifts;  
Come, Great Spirit, come.**

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 Great Spirit who inspires us.  
**Come, Great Spirit, come.**

Creator, you bent the earth like a bow until it was one, round, shining planet. At your word the land was drawn into mountains and deserts, forests and plains; The waters were gathered together into rivers, lake sand seas. Many times the circle of your creation by their greed and violence and they shattered the lives of others Creator renew the circle of the earth, and turn the hearts of all people to one another.

That they and all the earth may love and be drawn toward you. Through the power of your Son who lives with you and the Holy Spirit. In the circle of the Trinity forever more  
All my relations.

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

**Creator, to you we give thanks in all you bring and ask for your guidance as prepare to open our hearts and minds.**

**Within this sacred circle, Jesus Christ, is our center. In all we do. Help us to speak with honor and respect to all people and be open to the teachings we are given. As we walk this sacred journey together with our relations, open our eyes to understanding and the strength to truly see the way to live with compassion, love and grace, for with your spirit can we fave the winds together. All my relations.**

## **HYMN**

Amazing Grace

*Text by John Newton*

*With translations into Ojibway by Carolyn Klaassen*

## **THE WORD IS SPOKEN**

### **Isaiah 40:25-31**

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

**26** 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.

**27** 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”?

**28** 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.

**29** He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.

**30** Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;

**31** 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.

### **Matthew 26:36-41**

**36** Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." **37** He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. **38** Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." **39** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." **40** Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? **41** Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

### **STORYTELLING**

Carolyn Klaassen

### **BLESSING OF WATER FOR SPRINKLING**

(music: *When Peace Like a River* ELW #785)

The Great Spirit be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Great Spirit

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We thank you, our great Creator, for the gift of water. Over the water the Great Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from sin into everlasting life. We give you thanks for the gifts of your creation, for the waters that cleanse and nourish our bodies. We give you thanks for the waters of baptism that free us from the bondage of sin and death.

We give you thanks for the living waters that cleanse and heal our wounds, and feed our thirst for justice. Now sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we who are touched by your love might be healers in the desert places of your world, and bring water to the thirsty of the land, continuing in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour. To him, to you and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever,

**All my relations.**

### **ACT OF COMMITMENT**

The Covenant invites indigenous and non-indigenous communities into a new partnership in faith, hope and love, under the guidance of God's Spirit. Will you commit to support self-determination of indigenous people in all aspects of their lives, to walk in true partnership on the path of God's healing?

**We will, with Creator's help.**

When one group uses power to control, hurt and dominate others, the circle of right relationship is broken, and evil is given room to grow. Will you resist the powers of evil that weaken, distort and destroy just relationship with First Nations people; will you turn in repentance and keep the circle strong?

**We will, with Creator's help.**

The gift of Jesus Christ reconciles us with God, and draws us into a circle of love with the power to transform the world. This is good news for all people, indigenous and non-indigenous. Will you proclaim by word and deed the good news in Christ that you have witnessed here?

**We will, with Creator's help.**

Where racism and oppression are at work in society, all are affected, the privileged and the injured. We are all in need of healing. As you live out this good news of salvation, will you work to recognize your own needs for healing; will you seek out and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

**We will, with Creator's help.**

In Christ the captive is freed, the blind made to see, the suffering healing, and the poor receive good news. The whole creation yearns for us, the children of God, to be revealed in our care for each other and for all of creation. Will you join the struggle against the social, racial, economic and land injustices that affect the lives of indigenous people and harm the earth?

**We will, with Creator's help.**

God our Creator, you have given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, freeing us to be one in Christ, that the world may believe. Guide us through these cleansing and healing waters and walk with us from this place; keep us strong, faithful, loving and wise in our commitments and friendships. All my relations.

## **COMMISSIONING**

For you shall go out in joy, And be led back in peace, and the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Go in peace and spread the love and good news of Creator

## **CLOSING SONG**

We Are One in the Spirit

*written by Peter Scholtes*

*"Prayers To The Four Directions" from For the Healing of the Land, Rupert's Land Indigenous Council 2003 16 12 Huron LAIC, for National Aboriginal Day of Prayer 2001*

*Scripture passages are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), 1989*

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