**Prayers of the People**

**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2021**

*(Based on Readings for National Aboriginal Day of Prayer,*

*Anglican Church of Canada)*

God is our strength and our redeemer, the everlasting God, Creator of all. Ours is the God who does not faint or grow weary, the One whose understanding is unsearchable. That God’s mercy and justice may take flesh in our hearts and lives, and be made known in our community, our nation, and our world, let us lift our hearts in prayer as we sing/say:

*[Insert sung or said response…]*

O God, from you nothing is hidden and no plea for mercy goes unheard. Hear our cry of lament. Your heart grieves, O God, for all those displaced from homeland or family by human injustice. We remember how Indigenous children were taken away from parents and sent to residential schools, and the actions that dehumanized and degraded so many them. We remember those who continue to carry pain, and those who left this world having heard no words of apology. That we may refuse to be comforted until the violence of the strong has been confounded and the broken everywhere mount up on wings like eagles, we lift our hearts in prayer: ***/R/***

O God, as the sun chases away the night, so the light of your Christ scatters the power of sin and death. Hear our cry of repentance. We acknowledge that the church was part of a system that dishonoured the heritage and dignity of so many Indigenous people. We confess that fear of vulnerability, rejection, shame, or guilt renders too many of us reluctant to seek truth and reconciliation in our own time. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Fill our hearts with courage. Guide us so that ancient wrongs may be redressed, broken promises forgiven, and a new covenant forged. We lift our hearts in prayer: ***/R/***

O God, you create all things, calling forth each light in the sky by name. Hear our cry for unity. You created us in your image, blessing us with our many differences. You made us yellow and red, black and white. You formed us as people with a variety of gifts and needs, cultures and tongues. Yet, too often, it is these differences we have condemned. As you draw us together in one body, open our eyes to perceive the beauty and holiness of humanity’s diversity. That your people may demonstrate your power to reconcile and make all things new, we lift our hearts in prayer: ***/R/***

O God, you invigorate the exhausted and give fresh strength to the powerless. Hear our cry of hope. We give thanks for those who have shared their sacred stories with others as a way to healing and wholeness. We fix our minds on their testimony that, although hurt, they have not been destroyed; although humiliated, they have not lost their integrity; although love for them was violated, they have not lost their capacity to love. We look to the day when children are no longer harmed and never again removed from a parent’s loving embrace. That we may live today by the promise of this vision, we lift our hearts in prayer: ***/R/***

*If desired, one or both of the following petitions may be included.*

O God, your grace and truth have been made known to us through the Word made flesh. Hear our cry of petition. You have established your church to be a sign and herald of your promised Kingdom. We pray for our own Diocese of Algoma, and for Anne, our Archbishop. We pray for the Anglican Church of Canada, and for our Primate, Linda, and for Mark, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop. That animated by your Holy Spirit, the grace and truth of Christ Jesus may be evident in our life and witness, we lift our hearts in prayer: ***/R/***

O God, your peace passes all understanding, keeping watch over human hearts and minds. Hear our cry of intercession. We pray for the sick and all who suffer any need, especially *N.* We remember those who have died, especially *N.,* and pray for those who most keenly feel their absence. That your compassion for those who suffer and mourn may be made known through the care of many sisters and brothers, we lift our hearts in prayer: ***/R/***

*The Presider may conclude the Prayers of the People with the following Collect:*

O God, in Baptism you anoint us and seal us as your own forever.

Give us grace to walk in newness of life,

that your gifts of healing and reconciliation may be enjoyed by every race and nation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*If used during Morning or Evening Prayer (BAS), the Prayers of the People conclude with the Collect of the Day rather than the collect above. If used during Morning or Evening Prayer (BCP), the Prayers of the People conclude with the Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.*

**Other Recommended Resources:**

Remembering the Children Prayer:

<http://www.rememberingthechildren.ca/tour/documents/prayer.pdf>

A Litany for Healing a Restoration from the Diocese of Rupert’s Land:

<https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Litany-for-Healing-and-Restoration.pdf>

“Every Child Matters: Grace Will Lead Them Home” - a video service of reflection and prayer prepared by The Anglican Church of Canada:

<https://www.anglican.ca/orangeshirtday/>