

Praying for Healing and Reconciliation

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Creator God of love and justice,
comforter of those who mourn,
we turn to you acknowledging
the actions of our Church and our nation.

We have asked forgiveness
and committed to work for healing and reconciliation.

But we are painfully aware that for some,
that change came too late.

We offer you our sorrow
for the wrongs committed against the people of this land,
our First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children
in Canada's Indian Residential Schools.

We offer you our contrition
for what was allowed to happen,
and for what will never be.

We offer you our repentance
for the injustices borne of arrogance
and the harm done through indifference.

We pray for comfort for the families and communities
whose children, siblings, family, and friends
were taken from home but did not return.

We pray for consolation
of hearts wounded through separation and trauma.

We pray for healing
of bodies, minds, and spirits
wounded through abuse and oppression.

We ask for clear eyes,
that we may face the story of our nation and our Church with honesty.

We ask for open hearts,
that we may hear the stories of Indigenous Peoples with humility.

We ask for courage,
that we may once again ask our brothers and sisters
for forgiveness.

We declare our desire
to be a people who pursue peace.

We declare our resolve
to be a people who remember.

We declare our commitment
to be a people of truth and reconciliation.

Holy One, Creator of all that is, seen and unseen,
of story and of song, of heartbeat and of tears,
of bodies, souls, voices and all relations:
you are the God of all truth and the way of all reconciliation.

Come upon us, O Divine Healer,
and open our eyes to the injustices
brought against the Indigenous peoples of this land,
their languages and cultures.

May you be known for healing and wholeness,
rather than being blamed for abuses
that were brought about by human weakness and hostility.

Make us people of integrity and bearers of hope,
that we may commit to restoring relationships
and to journeying together,
as Non-Indigenous and Indigenous brothers and sisters,
to a place of peace in you,
where every tear will be wiped away,
and every sorrow turned to joy.

Give us one heart and one mind to walk together
in the love and strength of your Spirit,
in truth, reconciliation, and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son,
our brother, our Lord, and our hope.

Amen.

Jesus, Mary, & Joseph; pray for us.

