

PRAYERS for OBSERVING THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Prayer of Lament

L=Leader, C=Congregation

L: O God of all Creation, our tears flow freely,
Weeping for the pain our children have experienced.

C: Grant unto us communion with you, O star-abiding One.

L: We weep for the sacred children whose bodies have been found,
For the many children who remain lost,
For those who survived and have carried the trauma through generations,
And for the reopened wounds that we are forced to endure.
Together we grieve.
Hear our cries of deep sorrow, O Lord.

C: Grant unto us communion with you, O star-abiding One.

L: We weep for the families and communities who lost a child
And carried through the generations a broken heart.
Our tears flow like rivers that never stop,
mourning the pain of the survivors.
Together we grieve.
Hear our cries of deep sorrow, O Lord.

C: Grant unto us communion with you, O star-abiding One.

L: Just as Jesus wept, we weep and pray.
O God of love, come to us during this time of pain.
Comfort all who grieve, and weep with those full of sorrow.
Hear the stories of remembrance, carried by generations,
and transform our grief into determination
and our tears into action
so that your creation hears their stories. Amen.

*Written and Compiled by Native Theologian Kelly Sherman-Conroy (Oglala Lakota) on
behalf of the American Indian/Alaska Native Lutheran Association of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America.*

Prayer from the United Church of Canada

Creator,
You made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.
You made us as people, as communities, and as families.
You intend for us to grow and flourish together.
You command us to do good works, to be generous, and to build a good life for all.

Some of us wear orange today
to say that we did not always experience what you want for us,
because we were taken away from our families and communities
against our will.

Some of us wear orange today
to acknowledge that we are not yet who you intend us to be,
and that we have not lived up to your commandments.

All of us are wearing orange today to say that Every Child Matters,
and that we want to help create a future that values all Indigenous peoples.

Our prayers today are not simple expressions of hope for justice,
they are our commitment to create your justice on earth.

We pray
... to acknowledge the harm caused by residential institutions and to honor
all who were taken,
... for the end of racial discrimination against Indigenous children,
... for the end of racist colonial systems that continue to harm all Indigenous
peoples,
... for the humility to open ourselves to the task before us,
and the courage to work together.

You tell us to build up a good foundation for the future,
so that we might "take hold of the life that is really life."

We wear orange today, and we commit to the life
that you intend us to live together.

Amen.

By Sara Stratton, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator,

A Prayer to Remember the Innocents

Ohĩni wičhaungkiksuyapi kte. "We will always remember them."

Dear Lord, Almighty God,
we pray for all Indigenous children who were in residential and boarding schools in
Canada and the United States.

Some died there;
we ask that you give assurance to their descendants that their souls are with you and
their ancestors.
Some survived there;
we ask that you give your healing grace to all who endured hardship while there and are
still struggling with those memories.

Lastly, we ask you to help us guard our children against harm in this world. All this we
ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

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*Written by Deanna Stands (Yankton Sioux), Pat Roulette, LaHoma Johnson, Nadine Selwyn
and Janice Provost, as well as the Rev. James Marrs, superintending presbyter of the
Santee-Yankton Mission.*