

The United Church of Canada annually sets aside the third Sunday in June as the “Indigenous Day of Prayer,” and as Canada observes today as “National Indigenous Peoples Day.” We acknowledge the Coast Salish First Nation, upon whose traditional, ‘unceded’ land we walk with gratitude and respect.

God calls us to be a praying people;

Let us pray;

God of awesome mystery, we pray for your creation all around us;
forests and fisheries, lakes and rivers, sky and sea.

Help us to take care of them as you called us to-

“... and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air,
and every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

We thank you and praise you for your gift of the earth.

Into your hands, O God, we trust our spirits.

God of wisdom, bring us together as one.

One twig can easily be snapped,

but a bundle of twigs supports and strengthens each other.

Help us realize the many ways we can walk together
and pray for the well-being of one another.

Into your hands, O God, we trust our spirits.

We continue to pray for the world as it slowly begins to re-open after Covid-19.

Help us to begin to feel the stress of the past few months lifting from our emotions
and our bodies,and don't let us stop caring for ourselves and one another.

Today we pray for those who speak out to be the voice for those who have none.

For those who have spoken out to bring justice to the poor and the oppressed.

We pray for those who live, and for the families of those who no longer live,
because of gun violence...as one shocking incident, or as an everyday occurrence.

We pray for the United States. Our hearts ache for them and we lift them up to
you, and in your mercy be with them all.

We pray for our own Indigenous Peoples who have felt oppression here in Canada.

We pray when they speak, we will listen.

This day, we ask your healing hand upon those who face illness, medical treatment, those living with uncertain health; .and those who are recovering.

In this sacred moment, we name the people and situations for which we are concerned, and for whom we pray.

Hear the names, out loud, or in the silence of our hearts,
of the ones we know and love who need your strength.

We keep these loved ones in our prayers; Dagmar Hudson, Barb Rogers, Preya, Kim, Joanne & Tom Ogawa, Laurie Keller, the Barbosa family, Samantha Kelly, Randy, Rylan, Kevin, Peggy Wilkie, Candace, Harmony, Destiny, Joanne Fraser, Jasmine Pearo, Michael Brotsche, Jean & Don Burgess, Michael Kelly, Darlene, Mary-Ann Ellis, Dorothy Liang's son-in-law; Robert... her sister, Margaret

We pray for Marg and George Edmonds, as George continues his recovery.
We pray for Candace's brother-in-law, George Browne, for his continued healing.
We pray for the Bowers family, as they mourn the passing of Sylvia.
We pray for the Ogawa family, as they mourn the passing of Tom's brother, Mas.
We pray for the Stewart family as they mourn the loss of Shelly, a long-time, dear friend of Norma Favel and her family.

We pray for all who mourn, who know the pain of the loss of a loved one.
Grant them your loving love support.

We pray this day for those who will begin their summer holidays soon.
They aren't sure where they're going as most of their plans have been canceled.
Hold them while they rest and renew, and return them safely to us.
Be with those who will not feel the rest of a summer holiday this year.
Into your hands, O God, we trust each of our spirits.

All of these names and concerns, and those unspoken, come from our deepest places, we offer them to you with deepest love.

God of compassion, into your hands we give all of our prayers,
trusting in your mercy, now and forever.
We say together the prayer that Jesus taught us;

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread...