

Prayer Liturgy - 215 Indigenous Children



1) Let's open this liturgy by listening to this song or reading this lyric.

[YouTube Link](#)

Gone is the Light - Steve Bell
Music and Lyric by Gord Johnson

Into the darkness we must go
Gone, gone is the light
Into the darkness we must go
Gone, gone is the light

Jesus remember me
When you come into your kingdom
Jesus remember me
When your kingdom comes

Father forgive them
They know not what they do
Father forgive them
They know not what they do

2) Take to read Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

3) Spend few minutes in silence for the Indigenous children who never got back home.

You can set an alarm on your phone for 3-5 minutes.
You can go longer if you would like.

****We encourage you to not hold your emotions. It is ok to cry. It is okay to be angry. It is okay to be upset. Present your emotions before the Lord.*

4) If necessary, take few deep breaths.

Read Revelations 6:9-11 and 7:9-17

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, *from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb*. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb."

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

"Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore,

"they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

'Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,'
nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;

'he will lead them to springs of living water.'

'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

5) Spend some time in silence for the Indigenous children who never got back home.

Suggestion: a) Light a candle in their memory.
b) Slowly, count out loud from 1 to 215.

****We encourage you to not hold your emotions. It is ok to cry. It is okay to be angry. It is okay to be upset. Present your emotions before the Lord.*

6) Please read this prayer that is based on Psalm 80.

Listen, you who call Leader of all nations—
Listen to the cry of your own people.
Throw beams of light
from your dazzling throne
So Churches, the government, and Canadian society
can see where they're going.
Get out of bed—you've slept long enough!
Come on the run before it's too late. It feels that is too late.

Creator, come back!
Smile your blessing smile:
That will be our salvation.

Creator, God-of-our-Ancestors,
how long will you smolder like a sleeping volcano
while your people call for fire and brimstone?
You put us on a diet of tears,
bucket after bucket of salty tears to drink.
You make us look ridiculous to our friends;
our enemies poke fun day after day.

God-of-our Ancestors, come back!
Smile your blessing smile:
That will be our salvation.

Remember how you created Turtle Island,
with all its diversity
and how you made it your very own garden?
You prepared the good earth,
you planted her roots deep;
the trees filled the land.
Your trees soared high and shaded the caravels,
even dwarfing the giant cathedrals.
Your trees ranged west to east,
without mentioned the south and the very true north.

So why do you no longer protect your trees?
Trespassers pick its nuts at will;
Wild pigs crash through and crush it,
and the mice nibble away at what's left.

God-of-our-Ancestors, turn our way!
Take a good look at what's happened
and attend to this devastation.
Care for what you once tenderly planted—
the tree you raised from a shoot.
And those who dared to set it on fire—
give them a look that will kill!
Then take the hand of your child,
the child you loved and created.
We will never turn our back on you;
breathe life into our lungs so we can shout your name!

Creator, God-of-our-Ancestors, come back!
Smile your blessing smile:
That will be our salvation.

7) Write a song of lament or a letter of lament to God.

Consider writing a song of lament or a letter of lament to God in your own words.

Elements to include in your song or letter:

- Write a paragraph expressing how you are feeling about this whole situation? Disappointed, sad, frustrated, angry, etc.?
- If you are not Indigenous, write some words of confession. Think about how the Universal Church of Jesus Christ has mistreat Indigenous people. Ask for forgiveness.
- In light of the ministry of reconciliation that God entrusted us (2 Corinthians 5), write some words of repentance and hope for restoration, reconciliation, and justice. Put in practice your imagination: What would a society that is fully committed in engaging in the process of reconciliation look like? How can we listen better? How can we walk alongside Indigenous Peoples?