

TRC Prayer Guide

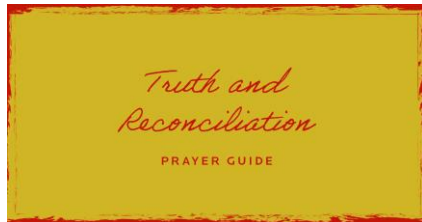
National Truth and Reconciliation Day is September 30th, 2023. Take time in your life group or on your own to learn, pray, and reflect on Christ's work of reconciling all things.

As we approach the topic of reconciliation, take note of the wide range of feelings this may elicit in yourself and others. It may feel uncomfortable and messy, it may cause feelings of anger, confusion, and a strong desire to look away.

In order to face this, bear in mind that we are not alone as we engage in this journey. We are people who walk with Christ, the suffering servant. So, feel permission to bring your honest self to this topic and welcome others to do the same.

Before diving in, consider watching a three-minute introduction explaining reconciliation by Murray Sinclair, Chair of the TRC of Canada: [What is Reconciliation](#)





Life Group Study Guide

Week One

This short guide is meant to help you interact with the *Truth and Reconciliation Learning and Prayer Guide* written by the Alliance Church of Canada. Week one will guide you through the call to action #48, as seen on page 2.

1. Read Call to Action #48.

- a) Read these statements aloud as a group. As it is read, seek to absorb what it is calling us as the Christian church to consider.
- b) Discuss what elements stand out to you as important to understand for the Christian Church.

2. Read the acknowledgment written by David Hearn (President of the Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada from 2012-2021 – Tenth Church’s denomination, see page 2).

3. Read Revelation 7:9-10.

As the passage is read, engage your imagination. Envision what it might look like to see people of every nation standing before God’s throne. Picture their different faces and hear them speaking their native languages. See them dressed in clothing common to their ethnicity.

Imagine Indigenous people, from both past and present, among the throng of God’s people.

The Great Multitude in White Robes

⁹ After this, I saw a great crowd of people, too many to count, from every nation, tribe, clan, and language. They were standing before the seat of honour and before the Lamb, dressed in pure white regalia, holding palm tree branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They lifted their voices and shouted, “The power to set us free and make us whole belongs to the Great Spirit who sits upon the seat of honour, and to the Lamb!” (First Nations Version)



- a) Reflect in silence for two minutes.
- b) Share what stood out to you as you listened and imagined this scene.

"We acknowledge that we have too often ignored the hurt and the resulting pain inflicted upon Indigenous Peoples. We did not stand up for the vulnerable and for that we are truly sorry.

The C&MA in Canada remains committed to respecting and honouring Aboriginal Peoples. Our prayer is that the Spirit of God will give us humility, grace and wisdom as we continue the journey, personally and corporately, to affirm and support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to 'adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.'"

(David Hearn, President of the C&MA in Canada)



Call to Prayer

Father God,

We repent of our contribution, through our actions or our inaction, to the oppression of Aboriginal peoples. We pray for open eyes to see and ears to hear how to change our ways. We confess and humbly repent for ignoring the difficulties many Aboriginal people struggle with daily. We grieve that Your name was used to abuse so many children and the harmful ripple effect that has affected subsequent generations. We pray that all Your people will extend and exemplify the true love and compassion of Christ to Aboriginal people.

Please give us wisdom to know how to worship You in culturally appropriate ways. Help Your people to practice inclusive hospitality towards others who may have differing cultural expressions for worshipping You. May we appreciate diverse modes of worship from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages that will stand before Your throne (*Revelation 7:9*).



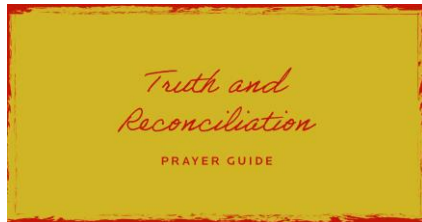
Call To Action



We call upon the church parties to the [Settlement Agreement](#), and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms and standards of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) as a framework for reconciliation. This would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

- Ensuring that their institutions, policies, programs, and practices comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Respecting Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in spiritual matters, including the right to practice, develop, and teach their own spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies, consistent with Article 12:1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Engaging in ongoing public dialogue and actions to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Issuing a statement no later than March 31, 2016, from all religious denominations and faith groups, as to how they will implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.





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4. Reflect on the song “River of Life” by musician Jonathan Maracle.

Jonathan is from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in Ontario. He is the founder of the Canadian First Nations worship band and ministry, Broken Walls.

a) Read about Jonathan Maracle’s testimony and his commitment to lift up the name of Jesus in ways consistent with his ethnicity as Mohawk.

Maracle posits that Christian beliefs align with indigenous ways, and vice versa; in this sense, he has established a contextual perspective toward combining traditions of religious worship. “Revelations 5:9 says, ‘Jesus died for every tribe, tongue, people and nation,’” he said. “I have learned that following Jesus doesn’t make me want to give up being Mohawk but it helps me to be a better Mohawk. I embrace the cultural ways that line up with the Bible. People are very surprised when they find out the similarities and how the basic principles of Native people are in line with the Bible.”



b) Listen to the song [“River of Life” by musician Jonathan Maracle](#).

c) How does Jonathan’s song, written from his Mohawk perspective of following Jesus, invite you to worship the Lord?

5. Read the Call to Prayer

a) Read the call to prayer in the guide (page 2), taking turns reading one sentence each.

b) Spend a few moments in silence absorbing the words of this prayer and turning your own heart in prayer to the Lord.

*To continue your prayer and learning with all the 94 TRC calls to action, you can access the entire TRC Prayer Guide here:

<https://thealliancecanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/trc-prayer-guide.pdf>

¹ <https://americanindianrepublic.com/walls-of-bitterness-why-indigenous-christian-worship-is-essential/>