## Sacrament of Communion for Seeking Right Relations

*In response to the suffering inflicted upon children and families by the Indian residential school system*

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### Invitation to the Table

Welcome friends and relations!

We meet here in the house of the Creator

at the great feasting table.

The Holy One who walked with our ancestors,

walks with us now, and will walk with our children

for years to come.

In the very air that we breathe,

in the sound of whistling wind

and in the slap of the waves on the shore,

we give you thanks for your presence.

In the sound of children’s laughter,

and in the songs of our elders,

we give you thanks for your presence.

Lift up your broken hearts:

We lift them up to God.

Let us honour our Creator.

It is right to honour God.

It is right to honour God and to give our thanks.

We give our thanks to God.

### The Great Thanksgiving

Creator and Giver of all life, Source of love.

We bless you for all your gifts.

You brought creation to birth and sent prophets

to awaken us to your great dream—

a dream in which everyone is treated with dignity and love,

justice and mercy,

honour and hospitality.

We praise you for elders and prophets,

visionaries and leaders, teachers and preachers,

all who have shared the great truth of your love.

We praise you for our brother Jesus,

Love in Human Form,

who showed to us in womb and tomb,

in cradle and cross,

in tenderness and compassion,

your Great Heart of Love.

With the flying ones, the swimming ones,

the four-legged ones, and the crawling ones,

with rocks and trees, mountains and plains,

with all creation,

we humans raise our voices to you as we sing:

All sing: MV 203 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

As we gather at this feasting table,

we remember that on the night before he died,

Jesus feasted with his friends.

He took a loaf of bread,

thanked you as we have thanked you,

broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Whenever you feast together, remember me.”

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks,

passed it to his friends, saying:

“Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood.

Whenever you drink together, remember me.”

Remembering your boundless love

shown to us in Jesus Christ,

we offer you our praise,

as we proclaim the great mystery of our faith:

All sing: MV 204 “Memorial Acclamation”

Holy Spirit,

unite us at this feast and may it strengthen us

to live the resurrected and reconciled life of Christ in creation.

### Prayers of the People

We remember the children of the Indian residential schools.

We remember how they were plucked up from their homes

by a system of arrogance that denied a good way of life.

Their tears, their hunger, their loneliness, and their fears are not forgotten.

The shame that was taught, lingers yet.

The pain that was inflicted upon their bodies remains.

We remember the parents; the aunties; the uncles;

the grandmas and grandpas left to grieve the empty places

in their homes and their communities.

Mothers were left with tear-stained aprons;

fathers suffered in unyielding silence;

how was it they were expected to carry on,

having lost their joy, their purpose?

And how was it that their community could continue to come together

to celebrate life and move together toward a bright future,

when their future was gone?

How long will it take to strengthen family, homes, and spirits?

How long will it take to heal the memories?

Who must we be and what must we do

to restore integrity and dignity to your world?

God of all great transformation, in our lament, we cry out to you.

God of all healing power, in our pain, we call your name.

God of all life, in our hope, we come before you in humble prayer.

We pray that all your children may once again sing

and dance the songs planted in their hearts since time immemorial.

We pray that in their play and in their learning

they be strengthened in wisdom and truth.

May they carry the knowledge of their ancestors—

those ways of life that brought abundance and joy

to this pilgrimage on earth.

We pray for the children’s health and wholeness;

may they reconnect with your unending love

that they may once again know who they are,

their giftedness and their value.

We remember those children who have found their home in you.

We acknowledge those who left this earth

having heard no words of apology or lament.

We are grateful that you hold these ones close

and have granted to them eternal peace.

As we move ahead into a time of truth-telling and reconciliation:

We pray for parents and extended family. Release them from their feeling of guilt and burden. Lift them from their grief. May their homes once again ring out with laughter and hope.

May their communities reflect the joy of their presence. May they come together to work toward reclaiming and renewing minds, bodies, emotions, and spirits.

And finally, we pray that one day this world, your world, will be a place where children are no longer harmed and will never again be removed from a mother’s embrace or a father’s helping hand. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Son, who showed us a way to your Kingdom come on earth. All my relations.

Through, with, and in Jesus,

united in love by the Holy Spirit,

we offer all glory to you, Creator, Source of Love,

now and always.

Amen.

All sing: MV 205 "Great Amen"

Prayer of Jesus (Our Mother and Father)

### Words of Institution

Christ’s body broken and healed for you.

The cup of rich blessing poured out for you.

### Welcome to the Table

Come, for all things are now ready.

Come to the table with all your kin

and share with all in need—

the gift of healing for those of us in pain,

the gift of reconciliation for those of us estranged,

the gift of assurance for those of us in doubt,

and the gift of hope for those of us in tears.

May we who share these gifts,

share Christ with one another and with all our kin.