



First Nations Traditional Teachings Litany

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The values summarized in this litany are considered to be the most important teachings to all nations. It is wisdom to be followed in relationships between individuals, family and the community. They are the Traditional First Nations Code of Ethics.

Leader: Give thanks to the Creator each morning upon rising and each evening before sleeping. Seek the courage and strength to be a better person.

Congregation: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a).

Leader: Showing respect is a basic law of life.

Congregation: Show proper respect to everyone, love your fellow believers, fear God, honour the emperor (1 Peter 2:17).

Leader: Respect the wisdom of people in council. Once you give an idea it no longer belongs to you – it belongs to everyone.

Congregation: Everyone must obey state authorities, because no authority exists without God's permission, and the existing authorities have been put there by God (Romans 13:1).

Leader: Be truthful at all times.

Congregation: These are the things you should do: Speak the truth to one another. In the courts give real justice-the kind that brings peace (Zechariah 8:16).

Leader: Always treat your guests with honour and consideration.

Congregation: In everything do to others as you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12).

Leader: The hurt of one is the hurt of all. The honour of one is the honour of all.

Congregation: Do nothing from selfishness or empty council, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself (Philippians 2:3).

Leader: Receive strangers and outsiders kindly.

Congregation: for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 25:35).

Leader: All races are children of Creator and must be respected.

Congregation: “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.” (Mark 10:14)

Leader: To serve others – to be of some use to family, community or nation is one of the purposes for which people draw breath on this side.

Congregation: Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.” (Deuteronomy 15:11)

Leader: Observe moderation and balance in all things.

Congregation: Someone will say, “I am allowed to do anything.” Yes; but not everything is good for you. I could say that I am allowed to do anything, but I am not going to let anything make me its slave (1 Corinthians 6-12).

Leader: Know and practice those things that flow from wellness, and avoid those that flow from woundedness.

Congregation: Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls (Jeremiah 6:16).

Leader: Expect guidance to come in many forms – in prayer – in dreams – in solitude and in the words and actions of Elders and true friends.

Congregation: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)