

# Indigenous Ministry Sunday

*"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his."*

—Psalm 100:3 (NIV)



**“There’s a River of Life That’s flowing from His Throne  
A River of Life That’s flowing from His Throne  
Won’t you come on in and see  
This river will set you free  
Way ya hey ya, way ya hey ya Hi yo way”**

These are the words Indigenous musician Jonathan Maracle sings in his song “River of Life.” Maracle is a Mohawk from Tyendinaga, ON and his music features drums and Indigenous language.



Maracle’s music blends Indigenous singing styles and language in worship to the Triune Creator: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Many Indigenous individuals have long been told that their Indigenous culture and language needs to remain outside the doors of the church. The introduction of Indigenous elements of worship and welcome have been a breath of fresh air for many.



Photo by National Gathering

This has also been true in the Christian Reformed community. At the most recent Canadian National Gathering Indigenous members of the CRC incorporated a drum into worship and this had a significant impact. One Indigenous participant at the gathering noted, “Maybe, it could help things move forward to a point where I, and others like me, would feel fully welcomed in the church. From the opening drum beat my heart was

freed. I belonged. Through prayer, worship, and conversation we learned to listen for God’s voice and to look ahead to what God will do next in Canada.”

Music is a powerful gift from the Triune Creator and as we seek to be spaces of welcome for people from every tribe and nation music can be a powerful tool of welcome. Join us today in welcoming cultural expressions of worship.

Listen to Maracle and other Indigenous artists’ music!

- [bit.ly/CIMCWorshipMusicYouTube](https://bit.ly/CIMCWorshipMusicYouTube)
- [bit.ly/CIMCWorshipMusicSpotify](https://bit.ly/CIMCWorshipMusicSpotify)



Cover image: Drum at the Indigenous Family Centre Winnipeg by Joseph Visser