



Reconciliation Litanies

Below you will find 3 Reconciliation Litany options. All 3 options can be accompanied by the Creator's Sacrifice Slides (in accompanying PowerPoint slides).

Option 1 is a responsive litany with details on Indian residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Option 2 is a 'leader led' version of option 1.

Option 3 is a shortened and simplified litany.

It is our hope that your congregation will mark the closing of the TRC in a way that is meaningful to you – so please use or adapt the following resources as you feel appropriate. If you have questions, or need some further ideas, feel free to contact Mike Hogeterp at the Centre for Public Dialogue: mhogeterp@crcna.ca, 613.686.6298

Option 1:

Reconciliation Sunday Confession and Assurance

Concerning the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Based on the Paintings "Creating a New Family" and "Because He Lives"
by the late Cree artist Ovide Bighetty

Introduction read by leader: (the PowerPoint slide entitled "Creating a New Family" should be displayed as worship leader gives the introduction)

Last week on Pentecost we remembered that Christ calls out to each of us in our own languages to join his new, reconciled family and become ministers of reconciliation in this land. In Ottawa, in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada came to close. This ending was a new beginning – it represents the promise and responsibility of reconciliation. Throughout the Commission's work, thousands of Indigenous people bravely shared their stories of residential schools. These schools broke Indigenous families apart and were built on assumptions that Indigenous people and cultures were inferior or savage. The Pentecost vision of unity in Christ is broken. But Indigenous people have begun the journey of reconciliation by daring to tell their stories. Healing has already begun. Members of the CRC across Canada have listened. The painting you see on the screen was created by the late Cree artist Ovide Bighetty in a Stations of the Cross series of paintings called "Kisemanito Pakitinasuwin" – The Creators Sacrifice. This series was commissioned by the

CRC's Indigenous Christian Fellowship in Regina. The painting is called "Creating a New Family" as Jesus connects John to his mother Mary. Our hope today is for a church and a nation that honours and celebrates the contribution of our Indigenous neighbours to our shared lives – may we be the new family that God calls us to be.

(Option 1 continued)

Responsive Litany of Confession & Reconciliation: *(Italics are direct quotes from the June 2012 Expression of Reconciliation by the CRC Canadian Ministries Director to the TRC)*

Leader: How difficult it has been, O Creator, for us to be humble and caring. The call to go out into all the nations and bring the good news has so often been compromised by our fear of what we do not understand.

People: We confess that we can lapse into stereotypes, fear, and suspicion of our Indigenous neighbours. There is brokenness between us as your children.

Leader: We too easily say, "get over it", and don't try to understand that Canada - our society, our churches - tried for generations to 'kill the Indian in the child' by removing children from the influence of their parents, their communities, and their cultures. The scars that resulted are real still today.

People: This is generational and corporate sin that we confess today.

Leader: We thank you God for your promise to reconcile us to yourself and your promise to reconcile all things, including broken relationships and long scars. The church and the nation of Canada are poorer because we refused to acknowledge the Creator's truth and way as revealed to Indigenous people. So, as we look to the culmination of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission this week, we say to our Indigenous Neighbours:

All: We are grateful that the Creator has sustained your will to protect your culture, language and ceremonies. As we –together–heal and reconcile we eagerly look forward to the ever deepening contributions of you, the Indigenous people of this land, to our shared lives. We pray expectantly that Kisê-manitow (gkits-eh-man-i-too) will guide our mutual journey to healing, justice, and reconciliation. May the end of the TRC be the beginning of a new journey of reconciliation in Canada. Jesus, draw us into a new reconciled family – because you live! AMEN

Leader: The painting you now see is the final image of the same series. This painting is called "Because He Lives." Take note of the butterfly imagery which symbolizes rebirth and regeneration. On Pentecost, those gathered in the upper room did not know what the future would bring. But God's fulfilled promise of the Holy Spirit's power filled them with the zeal of the Lord, empowering them to speak boldly in the marketplace of Jerusalem. There is much work to be done. The TRC report and recommendations call for action to be taken and continued. Healing has already begun. And Pentecost assures us that God will go with us and the Spirit will work to bring forth new life. And so we say together...

All: “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:3-5)

Option 2:

(please use Option 1 – Introduction and project Slide 1 – “Creating a New Family)

Reconciliation Sunday Confession and Assurance

Concerning the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

(Italics are direct quotes from the June 2012 Expression of Reconciliation by the CRC Canadian Ministries Director to the TRC)

Leader: How difficult it has been, O Creator, for us to be humble and caring. The Pentecost call to go out into all the nations and bring the good news has so often been compromised by our fear of what we do not understand. We confess that we can lapse into stereotypes, fear, and suspicion of our Indigenous neighbours. There is brokenness between us as your children.

We too easily say, “get over it”, and don’t try to understand that Canada - our society, our churches - tried for generations to ‘kill the Indian in the child’ by removing children from the influence of their parents, their communities, and their cultures. The scars that resulted are real still today. This is generational and corporate sin that we confess today.

We thank you God for your promise to reconcile us to yourself and your promise to reconcile all things, including broken relationships and long scars. The church and the nation of Canada are poorer because we refused to acknowledge the Creator’s truth and way as revealed to Indigenous people. So, as we look at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, give us grace to say this and celebrate with our Indigenous neighbours:

We are grateful that the Creator has sustained your will to protect your culture, language, and ceremonies. As we –together— heal and reconcile we eagerly look forward to the ever deepening contributions of you, the Indigenous people of this land, to our shared lives. We pray expectantly that Kisê-manitow (gkits-eh-man-i-too) will guide our mutual journey to healing, justice, and reconciliation. May the end of the TRC be the beginning of a new journey of reconciliation in Canada. Jesus, draw us into a new Pentecost family – because you live! AMEN

(Project Slide #2 – Because he Lives)

Leader: The painting you now see is the final image of the same series, this painting is called, “Because He Lives.” Take note of the butterfly imagery which symbolizes rebirth and regeneration. On Pentecost, those gathered in the upper room did not know what the future would bring. But God’s fulfilled promise of the Holy Spirit’s power filled them with the zeal of the Lord, empowering them to speak boldly in the marketplace of Jerusalem. There is much work to be done. The TRC report and recommendations call for action to be taken and continued. Healing has already begun. And God assures us that he will go with us—the Spirit will work to bring forth new life. And so we say together...

All: “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:3-5)

Option 3:

(please use Option 1 – Introduction and project Slide 1 – “Creating a New Family)

Alternate short-form litany for Reconciliation Sunday:

Leader: Creator God, in every voice and language, you call for healing and reconciliation. You call us to new ways of being human with other peoples, with this land, and with all creatures it.

Congregation: Forgive us, Lord, for dividing people into “us and them,” for letting fear and stereotypes break down the unity you came to bring.

Leader: Open our eyes to see the shadow side of our communities that allows oppression, hurts children, creates suspicion between races, and damages your creation.

Congregation: Forgive us, Lord, for being silent in the face of evil.

(Project Slide 2 – Because He lives)

Leader: Open our hearts to be healed and to be healers. Open our mouths to speak for justice. Open our arms to embrace our Indigenous neighbours. Open our minds to see new ways of living together in Your creation. May the seeds you have sown in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission flourish for the good of all in this place called Canada.

Congregation: Fill us with Your love and give us wisdom, so all may live in peace with justice and the earth be filled with your love. May the end of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission be the beginning of a new journey of reconciliation in Canada. Jesus, draw us into a new Pentecost family – because you live! AMEN.