

Christ the Creator



In the past the Creator spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us through his son, Jesus Christ. He is the one through whom the Creator made the whole universe, the one whom the Creator has chosen to possess all things at the end. He reflects the brightness of the Creator's glory and is the exact likeness of the Creator's own being, sustaining the universe with his powerful word. After achieving forgiveness for the sins of all human beings, he sat down in heaven at the right side of the Creator, the Supreme Power.

Adapted from Hebrews 1: 1 – 3



Indian Metis Christian Fellowship

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Smudging

as a

Christian Aboriginal Ceremony



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Smudging as a Christian Aboriginal Ceremony: A Brief Summary

In Christian Aboriginal spirituality, smudging is a call to worship the Triune Creator: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Like church bells, smudging informs people that an act of worship is about to begin. The smudging ceremony invites people to join the sacred space and activity of praying to the Creator in the name of Jesus Christ. The fragrance of the smudging communicates the initiation of a spiritual activity through sight and smell, our visual and olfactory senses. People see the smudge elements; they smell the fragrant aroma of the smoldering elements. Additionally, people participate in the ceremony by wafting the rising smoke over their hands, face and other parts of their body. Participation in a smudging ceremony is always optional; people's desire to participate or not participate is always respected.

At Indian Metis Christian Fellowship (IMCF) the elements used for smudging may include one or more of the following: sweet grass, sage, cedar, and tobacco.

The sweet grass reminds us of our impurity before the Creator. Covering oneself in the fragrant aroma of the sweet grass is a confession of our need to be purified by the blood of Jesus Christ. We are reminded that "Christ loved us and gave his life for us as a sweet smelling sacrifice that pleased the Creator." *Ephesians 5: 2*

The sage reminds us of our need for healing by Christ the Creator. Covering oneself in the fragrant aroma of the sage is a prayer for healing by Christ. We are reminded that "It is by Christ's wounds that we have been healed." *1 Peter 2: 24*

The cedar reminds us that we must worship the Creator in truth. Covering oneself in the fragrant aroma of the cedar is a commitment to be honest and to worship the Creator in truth. We are reminded that "The Creator is spirit and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth." *John 4: 24*

The tobacco reminds us that the Creator made us in his image from the elements of creation. Covering oneself in the fragrant aroma of the tobacco is a commitment to honour the creation from which we were made and in which the Creator placed us. *Genesis 2: 4 – 25*

Participating in the smudging ceremony may remind people of the incense ritual and elements that the Creator gave to the people of Israel. *Exodus 30: 34 – 38*

Participating in the smudging ceremony may remind people of the word of the Lord through the prophet Malachi that, "My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty." *Malachi 1: 11*

Participating in the smudging ceremony may remind people that the book of Revelation reveals that in heaven, incense offerings will be offered to the Lord. *Revelation 5: 1 – 14 and 8: 1 – 5*

A Smudging Prayer

Creator,
our Father in heaven,
we come to you as your children.
We confess that we are weak and broken images of you.
We pray for the forgiveness and healing you give in Jesus Christ.
May his Spirit clean our spirits, minds, hearts, and bodies.
We pray that your Holy Spirit
will help us to worship in spirit and truth.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
so that his Spirit will carry our prayers to you.
Amen.