

Prayer in the Four Directions

by Harold Roscher, Alan and Diane Englestad, for CCRCC



In this prayer, we borrow from Indigenous traditions, praying to Creator in the four directions.

Facing East

We come to you, O God, as a few of your many children on this earth. We thank you for the gift of life that comes to us like the dawn of each new day. As we begin our Hearts Exchanged journey today, we pray for light on our path. Open our hearts to your Spirit. We also remember your people who live to the east of us on this earth. Bring peace where there is constant fighting, and freedom where there is coercion, so that people may welcome the daylight with joy rather than fear.

Facing South:

We humbly thank you God, giver of life, for the abundance and variety of your creation. We thank you for the warm winds of the south that allow plants and food to grow, year after year. Give that we may learn the lessons hidden under every leaf and rock. We pray today for the many peoples of the south who do not have enough to eat. Help us always to be generous with what we have and share with those who have less. We pray too, that you will bring healing where there is strife and brokenness. Give to the powerful a change of heart, and to those who suffer, courage and the ability to forgive. Where there is death and hatred, sow the seeds of new life.

Facing West:

Lord we thank you for the beauty of the red and purple sunset. By it, teach us respect for all the things you have made. Renew our understanding day by day as we travel along our own road through life. And give us insight today that will serve us long after we leave this gathering. We thank you for the heritage you have bestowed on this country through the generations who lived here long before Europeans came to settle. Open our ears to the wisdom of Indigenous Peoples. Help us to share with gratitude the unique gifts you have bestowed on every nation. Bring healing also, we pray, to the many Indigenous people who suffer because of what a greedy and insensitive culture has done, often in your name. By your Spirit bring reconciliation between our cultures so we may walk together before you.

Facing North:

We thank you, O God, for our Saviour Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice makes us pure as the snow. We all depend on your forgiveness and grace. We ask for it ourselves and for our nation. Give us courage to ask forgiveness when we are wrong, and to forgive when we have been wronged. Send wisdom along with the white hairs of our elders. Teach us to listen when you speak through them. And help us as sisters and brothers to mature in our faith and our understanding of the Gospel. Make us ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

Amen

Note: We are grateful to Harold Roscher, Alan and Diane Englestad, for CCRCC for sharing this prayer with us.

