

MEMORIALIZING THE COVENANT---April 5, 1994

In 1993, a Sacred Circle was held at Minaki Lodge in Kenora, Ontario. At that gathering, the Most Rev. Michael Peers apologized on behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada for the damages Indigenous Anglicans incurred as a result of their experience in the Residential Schools operated by the Church. In 1994, a small group of Indigenous Anglican leaders met in Winnipeg and wrote the National Native Covenant. That covenant responds to the apology and has become foundational to the work of healing and reconciliation that continues.

THE SIGNATORIES: Donna Bomberry, Mervin Wolfleg, Olive Elm, Rev. Lily Bell, Audrey McKay, Vi Samaha, Daniel Aupalu, Iola Metuq, Murray Still, Nina Burnham, Joshua T. Arreak, Mark Loyal +, Esther Wesley, Laverne Jacobs, Barbara Shoomski, Eli Morris, Wilfred G. Stevenson, Morris Fiddler, Rev. Margaret Waterchief, Arthur Anderson, and Gladys Cook. *Note: Teresa Mandricks was present as a witness.*

Propers

Sentence

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34

Collect

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. You have grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life.

Or

Creator God, at the height of great despair and loss, you visited us to deliver us from the darkness of the effects of colonization to form us into a family where healing and reconciliation are at the centre of our lives. May we, who share in the new covenant of Jesus, who has redeemed us by his blood, share in the glory of your eternal kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Readings

Isaiah 40:27-31

Psalms 67

Ephesians 4:17-24

John 13:31-34

... 6

Prayer Over the Gifts

Creator God, accept all we offer you this day as you accepted us as your children and bring us into covenant love. May we who receive these holy things be found reconciling with each other and come to maturity in you through our brother Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Reconciling and loving Creator, you bring new life to all who accept your call. May we who receive these holy things respond to your call by loving one another and growing in faith. This we ask on the name of our brother, Jesus Christ our Lord.

NOTES

The opening paragraph gives a bit of history around the National Native Covenant. The rest follows the format given in the Book of Alternative Services. The sentence comes from the Gospel. The Collect is the one we use that goes with the Covenant. In the readings, Isaiah has long been an inspirational reading with reference to the strength of the eagle and we have seen eagles soar at each of our sacred gatherings. The letter to the Ephesians speaks of maturity which concerns leaving the old life behind to follow in the new life of Jesus. The Gospel gives us the message of Jesus to his followers to love one another as He has loved them. This continues to be the goal of faith, to love as Jesus loved. The prayer over the gifts and after Communion are inspired by the National Native Covenant.