

Liturgical Resources for Commemorating Indigenous Peoples' Day and Other Occasions

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The resolution *Fostering Right Relationships: The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Indigenous Episcopalians, and our Indigenous Neighbors*, adopted at the [2022 Diocesan Convention](#), included among other things the call to provide liturgical resources for commemorating Indigenous Peoples' Day and other appropriate observances within congregations and across the diocese. In response to this charge, we have assembled several suitable texts from a wide range of backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of Indigenous cultures and voices in North America.

Included in these resources is a rich library of liturgical texts, [Principles of Worship in the Vision of New Agape](#), prepared by the Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Anglican Council of Indigenous People. This resource includes guiding principles in crafting liturgies for communities of reconciliation, as well as opening prayers, Four Direction prayers, prayers for healing and reconciliation, litanies and responsive prayers and eucharistic prayers, as well as examples of full services. Some of these texts have been used in congregational and diocesan liturgies here in Massachusetts.

Here is an additional range of prayers and statements from around the Church that may be useful to include in your own liturgy:

- [The apology](#) from the Anglican Church of Canada's Primate, Archbishop Michael Peers, to the National Native Convocation in Minaki, Ontario, Friday, August 6, 1993, for the church's role in the residential boarding schools
- [Honoring the Four Directions](#) from the Anglican Church of Canada, appropriate as a Gathering Prayer or opening
- [A Litany for the Healing and Restoration of our Church](#), from Canada's Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land
- [The Matoaka Covenant](#), a written pledge that builds on the spiritual and intellectual foundation created by The Episcopal Church with the New Jamestown Covenant in 1997
- [Prayers of Intercession with a sung refrain](#) from Canada's Diocese of Huron
- [We Are Still Here](#), a responsive liturgy in two voices, Indigenous and Non-Indigenous, developed by the Canadian Primate's Commission on the Doctrine of Discovery, Justice and Reconciliation

As you are building your own liturgy, you might find inspiration in the elements from these service sources:

- [A service developed by the Anglican Church of Canada](#), adapted from one developed at All Saints' Church in Minneapolis, Minn.
- The [2022 Indigenous Peoples' Day observance](#) at the Old North Church in Boston--including "A Four Directions Prayer for Reconciliation" by Bishop Gallagher and a Eucharistic prayer from the Oneida Nation of the Thames, Ontario
- The [Celebration of New Ministry of Bishop Carol Gallagher](#) as assistant bishop, May 27, 2023--including, among other elements, "Declare his glory among all nations," a chant in the Native American tradition by Bishop Gallagher and Michael Plunkett, based on Psalm 96; and a dismissal from the Navajo Prayer Tradition.

Two hymns by Bishop Carol Gallagher, one mentioned above, are included in [Voices Found: Women in the Church's Song](#).

The Office of Indigenous Ministries of The Episcopal Church offers [A Disciple's Prayerbook](#), used widely throughout Indian country. Its short liturgies and Scripture passage provide an excellent way of encountering Christ within the sacred circle of the Gospel and with one another. This resource can be used on its own or within the context of a more extensive liturgy.