

Responsive Reading – For Truth and Reconciliation

Leader: In gratitude to God who healed our broken relationship
by reconciliation with Jesus Christ,
we receive a call to the Ministry of Reconciliation
as a paradigm for healing broken relationships.

People: Today we acknowledge:

Leader: a dark side to the history of Canada.
We settler peoples have reaped the benefits of the land
by pushing aside Indigenous peoples in order to seize their land.

People: Today we lament:

Leader: the attempted erasure of Indigenous people by Canada's Indian Act
which criminalized the practice of traditions and cultures,
and mandated the seizure and indoctrination of children in residential schools.

**People: Today we acknowledge we have no appropriate words,
so we stand respectfully in silent lament:**

Leader: for the children who died while in custody of residential schools,
died of active abuse,
died of lonely hearts and separation from family.

**People: Today we acknowledge we have no appropriate words,
so we stand respectfully in silent respect:**

Leader: for the families and communities who mourn,
mourn their children who did not come home from residential schools,
mourn the disruption of family and way of life,
mourn the exploitation and desecration of their traditional lands.

Pause in silence

Leader: In gratitude to God who demonstrated the way of reconciliation with us,

**People: we commit to walking together in a new way
acknowledging the true history and place of Indigenous Peoples on this land,
acknowledging the treaty relationships we live within on this land,
living with respect, listening and learning as we move forward
on the path of true reconciliation.**

Ron Flaming (Canada), 2021.

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