

## **Litany for a National Aboriginal Day**

**One:** Creator, in you we live and move and have our being!

**All:** You made the world and everything in it. You are Lord of Heaven and Earth. You give all people life and breath and everything else.

**One:** From one person you made every nation of people that they should inhabit the whole earth.

**All:** You determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

**One:** From the Carrier First Nation in British Columbia to the Mi'kmaq in the Maritimes,

**All:** From the Lubicon Cree in Alberta to the Chippewas of Sarnia,

**One:** From the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte to the Birdtail Sioux First Nation of Manitoba,

**All:** From the Burnt Church Band in New Brunswick to the Inuit of the Eastern Arctic.

**One:** You did this, God, so that people in every place and every time would seek after you and find you because you are not far from each one of us.

**All:** For the First Peoples of Canada, each nation rich in culture and language and heritage, we thank you.

**One:** Each nation of people, a celebration of your creative Love and shared Life.

**All:** You sent the costly gospel of the Kingdom through French and English. It was good and powerful. Many who heard of the Creator's Sacrifice to find them were saved.

**One:** But the good seed of the gospel was mixed with a will to rule, to gain territory, and to accumulate wealth. And much damage was done.

**All:** Hectares of land, kilometers of water, and generations of Aboriginal Peoples have been scarred by greed and broken promises.

**One:** As God's people, we know the potency of confession and forgiveness to heal.

**All:** As God's people, we know the peace of covenant faithfulness.

**One:** By Grace, our nation's government has said our actions and attitudes were wrong. We are sorry. Please forgive us. Truly, justice and righteousness are signs of his Kingdom among us.

**All:** May your Kingdom come here!

**One:** As truth is spoken in days to come, as indignities still buried are uncovered, as voices long silenced, are heard again,

**All:** May your Kingdom come here!

**One:** As the identity and dignity of Aboriginal Peoples are restored, as relationships are reconciled, as we learn to walk together in new ways,

**All:** May your Kingdom come here!

**One:** As taught by the grace of the First Nations, may ownership give way to stewardship, may pride give way to gratitude, may self-sufficiency give way to community.

**All:** May your Kingdom come here!

**One:** As the gospel of the Kingdom reaches the First Peoples of Canada, soften hearts made hard by hatred, open eyes blinded by deep hurt.

**All:** May your Kingdom come here!

**One:** We hold on to the Creator's promise that the desert and parched land will be glad when people see the glory of God!

**All:** Until that day, we will strengthen the feeble hands, and steady the knees that give way.

**One:** We will say to those with fearful hearts, "Be Strong, do not be afraid; your God will come."

**All:** "He will come and save you."

**One:** The whole creation waits and groans for this. The Creator's Spirit intercedes for this. The Creator's Son, Jesus, lives for this.

**All:** In this Nation of nations, He alone will have dominion and together we will declare his praise from sea to sea to sea!