



Litany for Indigenous Ministry Sunday

*Based on the [Belhar Confession](#)
All Scripture passages taken from *The Message**

Reader One:

In Ephesians 2:16-18 we read, Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility. Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.

Reader Two:

Because of what Christ has done, **we believe** that God doesn't just call us to talk about reconciliation, but to do something about it. **We believe** that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers. **We believe** that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. **We believe** that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted. **We believe** that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Reader One:

2 Corinthians 5 says: God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

ALL:

We believe that the church must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged. **We believe** that this means that we stand with those who are hurting, oppressed, and experience injustice whether or not we feel like we carry the blame or fault for it. **We believe** that the church must work intentionally, as a God-appointed role, against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. **I believe** that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence. **Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.**