Prayers for National Indigenous History Month

1. Month of the Strawberry Moon

The month of June, also known as the month of the strawberry moon according to Anishinaabe tradition, is a wonderful reminder of how we might live out this month together.

The strawberry known by many as the heart berry *"reminds us of reconciliation and teaches us how to maintain heartfelt relationships in our families and communities. During the strawberry harvest in June, many communities hold annual feasts, welcoming everyone home, and letting go of differences, judgement and self-righteousness." (Wabano Center for Indigenous Health)*

Let us pray,

Creator, the teachings of the strawberry are fitting for all of us right now. May this final month of our school year be a time to reach out and make one another feel at home.

Throughout this month, let's be reminded of strawberry moon teachings and how much we need the medicine of reconciliation and forgiveness to maintain personal balance and connection with our communities.

We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

2. Prayer to walk more humbly upon the land

In the month of June, we acknowledge that for thousands of years, the Algonquin people have sought to walk gently upon this land. We pause to recognize their hospitality and generous spirit. We join our prayers to the prayers of all Indigenous peoples from coast to coast to coast.

In this moment, we are reminded of the importance of relationships and the need to come back to togetherness through concrete acts of reconciliation and respect.

Let us pray,

Loving Creator, Creator of all peoples, you love everyone without exception or partiality (you do not play favourites). Heal the wounds of all people and restore all creation to wholeness. In gratitude, we pledge ourselves to living more justly, acting more kindly and most of all walking more humbly upon the land with you and one another.

Amen.

3. Invite the Creator to enjoy this day with us

In today's prayer we invite the Creator to enjoy the goodness and joy of this week with us. Our capacity for friendship, enjoyment and appreciation are among the simplest ways to enjoy greater connection with the one who made us.

Let us pray,

Creator God, we come before you, we invite you, by your Spirit, to be among us again today. We ask you, Spirit of God, to enjoy our fellowship today; to enjoy being with us: to enjoy the praises we sing; to enjoy the words we speak. We ask you, Spirit of God, to help us respond to our Creator's love. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen. *(Prayer by Ray Minniecon, Australian Indigenous Elder and Christian Pastor)*

4. The Land is a language that has been translated into many cultures and spoken languages.

As we begin our day, let us stand with hands and hearts open to the sacred speech preserved in the natural world. Indigenous ways of knowing shows us that creation itself is a language that has been heard and spoken all around the world for millennia. It is a universal language that has been translated into many cultures and spoken languages. You might even say that nature is the mother tongue given to the human family.

In Psalm 19:1-3 we read, "The heavens declare the glory of the Creator; the skies proclaim the work of the Creator's hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard".

Let us pray,

Creator God, the natural world carries your voice to us. Help us to speak our mother tongue once more. Help us to be attentive to unexpected teachings you send us today. May the cedar tree, the pinecone, the robin and the wind teach us our forgotten language, so that we might learn to live well upon this land and live in peace with the entire human family.

Amen.

5. The land that has the power to awaken gratitude for the giver behind every good gift

As we gather today, on this beautiful land; a land that has the power to awaken gratitude for the giver behind every good gift; a land that teaches us the truth of our interconnection and relatedness. We acknowledge the historic and ongoing hospitality of the Algonquin Anishinaabe and the ongoing obligations we have to live as family on this land.

Let us pray,
Creator and giver of all that is good, we give your thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendour of creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. Let the task of each day always find its origin in you and through you reach completion.
Amen.