

A Litany of Prayer for Red Dress Day Observances

(Adapted from the BCP Burial II, p. 497)

For our Indigenous sisters, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am Resurrection and I am Life.”

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who wait and mourn for our Indigenous sisters, and dry the tears of those who weep.

Hear us, Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give our Indigenous sisters eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our Indigenous sisters home to their people, and failing tha, bring them to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the disappearance and death of our Indigenous sisters; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. *(Adapted from the BCP, P. 497)*

Silence is kept.

God of hope and love,
Today we stand somewhere between peace and joy,
unsure where to find them
in a world where women continue to be subject to violence
because they are women, because they are Indigenous.
Today it is hard for us to imagine the lamb and the lion together,
to know that our hearts will rejoice at the arrival of justice.
And yet we persevere.
We remember, and we persevere.

United Church of Canada

—an Advent prayer by Sara Stratton, written for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The officiant offers a concluding prayer:

Father of all, we pray to you for our Indigenous sisters, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

(Adapted from the BCP, P. 498)