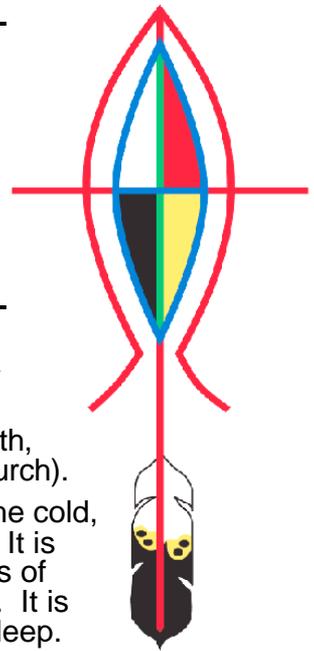

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: A "FOUR DIRECTIONS" LITANY

*National Indigenous Peoples Day of Prayer
Sunday June 20, 2021*



Leader: Please stand. We turn towards the North,
the direction of wisdom (doors of the church).

We greet you, Creator God. You are the cold,
biting wind that blows across our land. It is
your Spirit whose wind blows the snows of
winter, with their fury and their solitude. It is
your Spirit who blankets the earth for sleep.

**All: Teach us in the solitude of winter, to wait in darkness
with the sleeping earth, believing that we, like the earth,
already hold within ourselves the seeds of new life.**

Leader: We turn towards the East (Chapel side of the nave).
Let us turn our hearts and minds toward the eastern
direction, the direction of hope. We greet you Creator God.
You usher in the dawn on your breeze; you stretch forth
your fingers and paint our skies.

**All: Awaken in us with each day, new hopes, new dreams
of colours, love and joys never before imagined.
Fill our bodies with your breath; invigorate us.
Carry us to the farthest mountains and beyond.**

Leader: We turn towards the South (facing the High Altar).
Let us turn our hearts and minds toward the southern direction,
the direction of struggle. We greet you, Creator God.
You bring the winds of summer and breathe on us the warmth
of the sun to soothe and heal our bodies and our spirits.

**All: Drive our roots deep into the earth and stretch our
branches full out into the sky.**

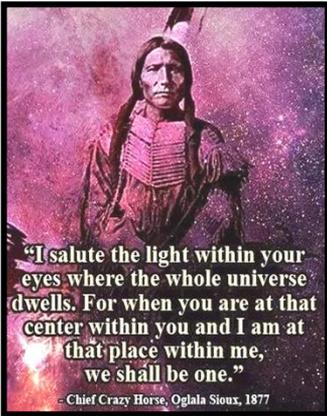
Leader: We turn towards the west (Sacred Circle side of the nave).
Let us turn our hearts and minds toward the western
direction, the direction of kindness. We greet you,
Creator God. You cool our hot and tired bodies,
and refresh and bring laughter to our hearts.
It is you who ushers in the setting sun.

All: Guide our steps at the end of day; keep us safe from evil. Fill us with your peace as you enfold us with your great mystery of night, until morning calls us forth again.

Leader: Let us turn our hearts and minds toward the Altar, the direction of revelation. We greet you, Creator God. It was from you we came as from a Mother; you nourish us and give us shelter.

All: Teach us to walk softly on your lands, to use with care your gifts, to love with tenderness all our sisters and brothers who have been born of your goodness. And when the day comes that you call us back to yourself, help us to return to you as a friend, to find ourselves embraced, encircled, enfolded in your arms.

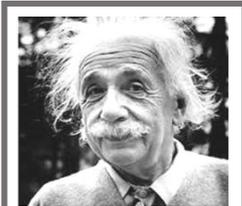
Leader: In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**



**WE ARE ALL CONNECTED
TO EACH OTHER
BIOLOGICALLY
TO THE EARTH
CHEMICALLY
TO THE REST OF
THE UNIVERSE
ATOMICALLY**
Neil deGrasse Tyson



"All things are our relatives; what we do to everything, we do to ourselves. All is really One."
~ Black Elk



A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us.

Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. ~ Albert Einstein

