# We Dare to Hope

*A prayer for committing to the genuine inclusion of Indigenous peoples in decision making on all matters that affect them.*

**They have treated the wound of my people carelessly,  
saying, “Peace, peace,” when there is no peace.  
(Jeremiah 6:14)**

We believe in God  
Creator of all that is within us and all that surrounds us  
Shaper of the bonds between us as peoples and among the whole of creation  
The beings that walk, that swim and crawl, that fly overhead  
The beings that have sheltered us, sustained us, and silently watched over us for generations  
We believe in the Creator of relationships meant to be lived out in equity, mutuality, and respect

Today we see that your creation is fracturing  
The land seeks rest even as it labours to sustain us  
Relations hurl threats at each other across political borders  
Leaders assert that theirs is only way  
And the ones who are affected most by political decisions have no say in decision making

In a time of reconciliation, of binding up wounds, we fear an unravelling  
We have pledged to bind up wounds together  
Yet we do it so lightly that there is no healing  
We say, “reconciliation, reconciliation,” but is there reconciliation?

We believe in Jesus, who questioned those with power,  
Quieted those with loud voices  
Empowered those who were silenced to speak  
We learned from Jesus, who overturned tables that were unjustly set  
And gave a seat to those who were always shut out

Today we seek to do as Jesus did:  
To make room as Indigenous peoples assert their right to be at the table  
As they assert their right to consent—to say yes, to say no  
To build a new relationship rooted in covenant, not colonization  
Where we can all feast together

In this time of reconciliation, of binding up wounds, we dare to hope  
To find creative solutions together  
We say, “reconciliation, reconciliation  
That all might be healed and our relationship transformed