# 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