# 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