

Prayers written and offered by Jordan Murray at the occasion of the dedication of the Mohawk Bible at Iona Abbey.

As our small group of pilgrims prepares to carry this Mohawk translation of Holy Scripture back across the Atlantic, we offer our heartfelt prayers of repentance and hope to the creator and sustain of all things.

Let us Pray.

This bible is a powerful symbol of the Holy Spirit's will to refresh and restore all things. To take the which is broken and make it whole, that which is sick, and make it well, and to seek and find that which has been lost.

We pray today for justice – Oh God of justice, we offer our prayers this morning for clean drinking water, for healing from the ongoing trauma of residential schools, for missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, for their loved ones, for righteous anger in the face apathy expressed by police and government. For strong indigenous communities, mental health and wellness, for climate justice for all.

Loving God, we look to you, to meet us in our hopes and in our actions
Receive our prayer.

We pray today for humility – God who makes the first last and the last first, may we repent of the arrogance which took these sacred words and used them as a tool of oppression and violence. For the denial of the humanity of Indigenous peoples, for those who have denied the sacredness of indigenous spirituality throughout history and today. For the unwillingness to recognize the ways in which God was at work in Indigenous communities long before the arrival of Europeans.

Loving God, we look to you for what is right, guide our paths in humility and service to all your children.

Receive our prayer.

We pray today for reconciliation – Giver of all healing, healer of every wound. We pray for the strength and conviction to participate in the work of repentance and re-building of relationship, as equal partners with Indigenous people. We pray for fulfillment of unheeded calls to action, for the recognition of treaty rights, for self-determination for Indigenous communities, for the growth of Indigenous language and culture, as the foundational fabric of the tapestry that is Canada.

Generous God

pour out your love, upon all, bring us together, make us whole.

We pray today for peace – We commit before almighty God, to living a different story. God's story of new life, where the sins of yesterday no longer chain us, but where through God's grace we are set free to live as kin in the promised Kingdom.

Your kingdom come

Your will be done.

Where our ancestors left a legacy of harm, may our legacy truly represent, in hope and action, the ways of Jesus the peacemaker, following paths of justice, humility, reconciliation and peace.