

Liturgy by Rev. Adrienne Stricker (Port Gamble S'Klallam)

LITANY:

Leader: You may have noticed that today we covered our worship space in red/invited you to wear red to this service. The color red is a powerful symbol for many things and has been used to raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIW).

Red is the color of blood: a reminder that we are human and vulnerable, and that we all need each other.

People: Red is the color of life. We believe in life and wellness for all.

Leader: Red is the color of love: not just for a partner, but for all of creation.

People: Red is the color of anger. We are angry at the violence done to Native women and girls and choose not to ignore that anger but to feel it, that it may evoke within us a deeper energy to bear witness and take action.

Leader: Red is the color of Pentecost: the promise that the Holy Spirit is with us as we work toward the Kin-dom of God.

People: Red is the color of power. We claim the power of speaking the truth, and commit to working together as a community to advocate for Native women and girls.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Life-giving God, your Word teaches us to value the sacred worth of every human life and to dismantle systems that silence and oppress your children. We lament with our Indigenous and First Nations sisters as we mourn the loss of the thousands of lives that have been violently taken away. Empower us to seek out their stories and make visible the grief that colonization continues to cause Native communities.

Creator, in your mercy, hear our cries. No more stolen sisters!

God of justice, we acknowledge the reality that our Native siblings have found no justice. Today we remember the known cases of missing and murdered Native women and girls: 5,712. We lament that these women and girls are not valued enough by our justice systems to track every case. We hold in our hearts the many unknown cases and unknown stories of violence and loss. We hold in our hearts the Native and First Nations women who have survived the trauma of sexual abuse with no prosecution of their abusers. We acknowledge the violence and abuse of Native women by non-Native men, even as federal systems fail to name this truth and take action.

Creator, in your mercy, hear our cries. No more stolen sisters!

God of equality, we remember that Jesus flipped tables in disgust when he saw your people being exploited and abused. Give us the strength to not look away from this abuse, but channel our anger and despair into righteous indignation. Embolden us to speak out against demeaning images of Native women that do not honor your divine image within them. Transform our sense of helplessness into a willingness to work for healing, especially in spaces where the sins of toxic masculinity and white supremacy run rampant.

Creator, in your mercy, hear our cries. No more stolen sisters!

Spirit of Truth, we know that you do not leave us to do this work alone. Empower us to name and use the gifts each of us brings to draw attention to this crisis. In your mercy, forgive us for our unwillingness to see this painful truth. By your grace, transform our actions into hope and healing. In your wisdom, draw us together - Native and First Nations communities, and allies - that together we will beat our swords into plowshares and know peace and healing.

Creator, in your mercy, hear our cries. No more stolen sisters!