

June 21 has been marked by the Anglican Church of Canada as National Aboriginal Day of Prayer since 1971. From time to time resources for worship have been provided from the General Synod, not as a common text that is to be adhered to, but as resources to be shaped, adapted and used as is deemed appropriate for the celebrations in local communities.

Similarly, there is no 'by rule' set of Scripture readings offered officially for that day. Below, you will find a list of suggested Scripture readings relating to the themes of reconciliation and new life in Christ. However, the Revised Common Lectionary readings for the Sunday before and after June 21 might lend themselves well to the National Aboriginal Day of Prayer in the following ways:

June 19, Trinity 4, Proper 12:

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| Genesis 21:8-21 | The providence of God caring for the outcast Hagar – those whom the more powerful in society cast aside are cared for by God, and God is with them |
| Psalms 86 | All nations you have made will come and worship you, O God – God's presence is with all nations throughout creation, and the reconciliation of nations will be as all are drawn into God's life. |
| Romans 6:1b-11 | The gift and call to new life in Christ - empowers us for the work of New Agape |
| Matthew 10:24-39 | Those who lose their life for Christ's sake will find it - the risks and deep costs of following Jesus are real, and we too as church are called to pick up the costly cross and carry it on the way to reconciliation, but it is also the road of new life. |

June 26, Trinity 5, Proper 13:

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| Genesis 22:1-14 | The providence of God reigns over the sacrifices we make – we may be called to incomprehensible sacrifices, giving of our selves or money or things precious to us, but trust in God's call leads to life given, life restored. |
| Psalms 13 | "How long, O Lord?" the Psalmist's lamentation in grief and loneliness turns to song. It is through the dark night of lamentation, of hearing and sharing the sufferings of others that we can come to the dawn of true joy that God gives in healing. |
| Romans 6:12-23 | We are no longer slaves to sin – dominant culture people do <i>not</i> have to keep repeating social and institutional patterns of racism and colonialism – that is the way of death, and we have been freed from it, capable of doing justice. |
| Matthew 10:40-42 | "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me" - The gift of hospitality, so much at the heart of Indigenous cultures across North America, remind us of this core Gospel value, of which we all need reminding. What does it take to truly welcome each other, across the differences which try to keep us from one another? |

Other suggested readings:

Genesis 1	God created all things, all life, and it is good.
Genesis 3:6-19	Disobedience to God – a source of enmity and of conflicts
Genesis 45:3-15	Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers
Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Remembering the gift of the Exodus, and the gift of land
Leviticus 16:	Liturgy of reconciliation in the Old Testament
Leviticus 25:	Jubilee passage
Psalms 8	Divine majesty and human dignity
Psalms 37:1-11	The poor and distressed will rejoice in the great peace
Psalms 104:24-35	The glory of God's works and provision for us
Isaiah 2:2-5	God gathers together the nations in a reign of everlasting peace
Isaiah 11:1-9	The Messianic kingdom will restore the peace of Paradise and bring the reconciliation of the whole universe
Isaiah 43:16-21	God is doing a new thing and making a way where there was no way – 'do you not perceive it?'
Isaiah 52:13-53:12	The suffering servant reconciles sinners with God
Isaiah 55:	Four-part pattern of healing and reconciliation (come to the waters, listen to God, repent, go forth to do God's will)
Isaiah 61:1-3;10-11	Encouragement offered to the exiled and oppressed as a result of God's liberating action
Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant for the forgiveness of sins
Micah 6 (what is the offering God requires? Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly)	
Hosea 2:16-22	Through God's grace sinful people can renew their relation with God
Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:21-26	Reconciliation with one's neighbour must precede worship

Matthew 18:23-25	The merciful king and the servant who cannot forgive
Luke 4:	Jubilee proclamation by Jesus
Luke 6:27-38	Love your enemies
Luke 15:11-32	Reconciliation of the younger son with his father – he does so by ‘coming to himself.’ As a church we are in need of healing, because we have not been ‘ourselves’. Our turning (the cross) can set us on the way home (healing, resurrection).
John 3:16-17	God’s love for the world is the ground of eternal reconciliation
John 8:30-36	Christ’s truth frees us from the slavery of sin
John 20:19-23	Thomas recognizes the risen Lord by the marks of his death. It is the experience of the Cross that allows us to see resurrection. What marks of the cross do others see in us? Without wounds, can we be seen as a source of healing? The risen Christ gives the apostles the power to forgive sins
Acts 2:1-11 (-21)	The Pentecost story: focus on notion that ‘all nations’ present at the beginning; the gospel not only finds its destination but also its starting place among all peoples.
Acts 6:1-7	Division and reconciliation in the early Church in Jerusalem
Acts 15:1-35	Conflicts and reconciliation in Antioch
Romans 5:6-11	Peace with God in Christ through whom we have received reconciliation
Romans 8:18-25	The creation awaits the revealing of the children of God
2 Corinthians 5:14-21	Reconciliation through Christ and the church’s ministry of reconciliation
Galatians 3:23-29	Christ reconciles in himself all nations and all parts of society
Ephesians 2:12-22	In the context of Gentile and Jewish Christians, Paul talks about ‘strangers and aliens’ finding their peace. Although the history of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples have been intertwined, we have been strangers to one another in many ways, and have had a history in which the most powerful are on top. But it is through the cross that we find our peace, and are brought near to one another.

Philippians 2:1-11 Model for discipleship is Jesus' self-giving
Colossians 1:1-20 In Christ, God has reconciled the whole creation
Hebrews 9:11-14 The sacrifice of the new covenant
James 4:1-10 An admonition to overcome conflicts
1 John 4:7-21 God is love, therefore let us love one another.
Revelation 21:1-7 A new heaven and a new earth

Some suggested hymns, from *Common Praise*

Many and Great Are Your Works (CP # 407)

Draw the Circle Wide (CP# 418)

For the Beauty of the Earth (CP #429)

Amazing Grace (CP # 352)

Just as I Am. (CP #615) (*The words of this hymn were written by Charlotte Elliott [1789-1871]. Her husband, Peter Elliott, served as priest at Six Nations in the early 1800s.*)

O Healing River (CP#578)

We Cannot Measure How You Heal (CP 292)

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (CP#179)

Wind Upon the Waters (CP#408)