Collect for Purity I

O Great Creator,
cleanse my heart of all malice and wickedness
that I may follow you in the good and holy way,
purify my mind that it may stay fixed on you
and your righteous ways.
Clear my eyes that I may see only the good things
that you have created for me.
Make my spirit one with yours
that I may worship you in spirit and in truth,
and love you with all my heart, mind, body and soul
may my heart always beat as one with yours,
through your Great Messenger,
Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Collect for Purity II

O Great Creator,
cleanse our hearts of all stain from sin and brokenness,
that we may walk with you along the good road, your holy way.
Purify our minds, that we may be guided by your holy word.
Clear our eyes, that we may see the goodness you have created.
Open our ears that we may hear your voice.
Make our souls one with yours,
that we may worship you in spirit and in truth,
and love you with all our hearts, minds, bodies and souls.
May our hearts always beat as one with yours,
through your Great Messenger, your Son, Jesus.

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¹ Mark Loyal- can also be said as “we/us”
² “Thank you/Amen” in Ojibwe, Mohawk, and Delaware, the three Indigenous language groups in the Diocese of Huron
A Four Directions Litany with Petitions

God of a thousand names and faces we experience you to be beyond our knowing and telling and at the same time deeply present, incarnate and alive within us and in our relationships. Holiness beyond us, within us and among us… Blessed be!

We greet you, Creator God. You are the cold, biting wind that blows across our land, that strips the earth of all that is dead and decayed, that robs us of false securities, so easily blown away.

Teach us to plant our feet securely on the earth and to see things as they really are, that the coming of your Spirit may find us standing firm in integrity.

It is your Spirit whose wind blows the snows of winter, with their fury and their solitude. It is your Spirit who blankets the earth for sleep.

Teach us in the solitude of winter, to wait in darkness with the sleeping earth, believing that we, like the earth, already hold within ourselves the seeds of new life.

As we breathe and take in the Spirit of wisdom we remember our sisters and brothers in the north and we offer prayers (petitions are offered).

Holy friend, steadying in wisdom, beyond our knowing and telling and deeply present, incarnate and alive.

Let us turn our hearts and minds toward the eastern direction, the direction of hope.

We greet you Creator God. You usher in the dawn on your breeze; you stretch forth your fingers and paint our skies.

Awaken in us with each day, new hopes, new dreams of colours, love and joys never before imagined. Fill our bodies with your breath; invigorate us. Carry us to the farthest mountains and beyond. In-spirit us that we might reach out to you boldly to grasp the miracles that are given birth with each new dawn.

As we breathe and take in the spirit of hope, we remember our sisters and brothers in the eastern direction and we offer prayers (petitions are offered).

Holy Friend, courting us with hope, beyond our knowing and telling and deeply present, incarnate and alive.

Let us turn our hearts and minds toward the southern direction, the direction of struggle.

We greet you Creator God. You bring the winds of summer and breathe on us the warmth of the sun to soothe and heal our bodies and our spirits.

Source: developed for the Anglican Indigenous Sacred Circle 1998
You thaw and soften the coldness of our world; you nudge the seedlings to break through the soil to light. Quicken us, draw us by the urgings of your warm breath to break through the soil of our own barrenness and fear. Drive our roots deep into the earth and stretch our branches full out into the sky.

Teach us to hold sacred the memory of the spring rains that we might have the strength to withstand the heat of the day, and not become parched and narrow in our love.

Lead us to accept fatigue with resignation, knowing that life is not to be rushed, that there is no flower of the field that grows from seed to blossom in a single day.

As we breathe and take in the spirit of struggle we remember our sisters and brothers in the southern direction and offer prayers (petitions are offered).

Holy Friend, prophetic in struggle, beyond our knowing and telling and deeply present, incarnate and alive.

Let us turn our hearts and minds toward the western direction, the direction of kindness.

We greet you Creator God. You cool our hot and tired bodies, refresh and bring laughter to our hearts. It is you who usher in the setting sun. It is by your power that the sun hangs suspended for endless moments before you catch it with your breath and carry it off into the night.

Guide our steps at end of day; keep us safe from evil. Fill us with your peace as you enfold us with your great mystery of night until morning calls us forth again.

As we breathe and take in the spirit of kindness we remember our sisters and brothers in the western direction and we offer prayers (petitions are offered).

Holy Friend constant in kindness, beyond our knowing and telling and deeply present, incarnate and alive.

Let us turn our hearts and minds toward the altar, the direction of revelation.

We greet you, Creator God. It was from you we came as from a Mother; you nourish us still and give us shelter.

Teach us to walk softly on your lands, to use with care your gifts, to love with tenderness all our sisters and brother who have been born of your goodness. And when the day comes that you call us back to yourself, help us to return to you as a friend, to find ourselves embraced, encircled, enfolded in your arms.

As we breathe and take in the spirit of revelation, we remember our lives and relationships and we offer prayers (petitions are offered).
Holy Friend, steadying in wisdom
Prophetic in struggle
Constant in kindness
Courting us with hope
Guiding in revelation
Be with us and help us to be with each other.

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Thanksgiving in the Four Directions

Creator, we long for wholeness in our families, for honest, open communication to say what we need to say in safety and without fear.

Creator, we give thanks for the knowledge you give in all traditions of the world. Help us to honour the gifts of all traditions.

Teach us to know how to love and live.

We give thanks for new life, for youth, represented by the eastern direction. We give thanks for new learning, for the sun which rises to begin each new day, and for the teachings of the peoples of the east, and yellow-skinned peoples.

Teach us to know how to love and live.

We give thanks for the south, for the black-skinned peoples of the world, for the growth of the summertime in our lives, the learnings of our adult lives, to be kind and accept ourselves. Teach us as parents to love and respect our children, to care for the elders and those who cannot care for themselves.

Teach us to know how to love and live.

We give thanks for the west, for the gifts of Aboriginal peoples of the world, for understandings of care of the earth, for teachings about rocks, leaves and trees, for the knowledge we have in our own teachings, all of these given by our Creator. Help us to use our understandings to bring joy and new life to our communities.

Teach us to know how to love and live.

We give thanks for the northern direction, for the white-skinned peoples of the world, and white-haired peoples in our families and communities. Help us to receive gifts of wisdom from all peoples. Help us to grow our roots deeper through life’s journey, that we may grow in kindness to ourselves and each other.

Teach us to know how to love and live.

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4 Source: The Dancing Sun, United Church of Canada, Vol. VII
Prayers for the East

Holy God, God of many names. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the east; the spirits of all people of the east who have gone before us, the spirits of those who are yet to come. We pray for all people who now live to the east of us.

(Particular intentions may be named.)

We thank you for the colour yellow, the sacred colour of the east, the colour of the rising sun. When the sun rises we offer our prayers to you, thanking you for the new day, for new opportunities, for new beginnings, for hope. Each new day reminds us of your faithfulness to us, your people.

We thank you for the medicine of the east, tobacco. When we offer the tobacco, we thank you for our children, those who carry the future of our people in their lives. Tobacco, like children, needs protection, nurture and cultivation in order to grow.

Help us, Creator God, to care properly for the lives of the children which you have entrusted to us; to honour and respect them, to protect them, and to learn from them.

We thank you for Jesus, your son, whom we honour at the beginning of each new day. We thank you that he lived among us as a baby, a child, a youth and a young man.

All:  Awaken in us new dreams and hopes never before imagined.
Let us behold the miracles that are born with each new dawn.
Creator of hope, hear our prayers.

Prayers for the South

Holy God, Creator of all. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the south; the spirits of all those to the south of us who have gone before us, the spirits of those who are yet to come. We pray for all the people who now live to the south of us.

(Particular intentions may be named)

We thank you for the colour red, the sacred colour of the south, the colour of warmth and love. We thank you for all the emotions you have placed in our hearts; emotions which you share with us and ask us to share with each other.

We thank you for the medicine of the south, cedar. When we offer the cedar, we thank you for all who nurture the youth among us. We remember these people when we see the green boughs of the cedar throughout the seasons of the year.

We thank you for Jesus, your son; for Mary his mother, and for Ann his grandmother. We thank you that he befriended and ministered lovingly to women during his life, and that he first appeared to women at his resurrection.

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4 Huron LAIC, for National Aboriginal Day of Prayer 2001
All: Warm our lives as roots deep in the soil of your earth, and stretch out our hearts as branches to be places of nurture and protection. Sower of life, hear our prayers.

Prayers for the West

Holy God, God of darkness and of light. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the west; the spirits of all those to the west of us who have gone before us, the spirits of those yet to come. We pray for all people who now live to the west of us. (Particular intentions may be named) We thank you for the colour black, the sacred colour of the west, the colour of wisdom and knowledge. As the sun sets in the west and the darkness of night comes upon us, we thank you for all we have learned during the day, all the insight we have received from you so that we might share it with others when daylight returns.

We thank you for the medicine of the west, sage. When we offer the sage, we thank you for our elders who carry within them the experience gained through life.

Help us, Creator God, to respect our elders, to seek out their knowledge and to make use of it for the good of our people. Help us to care for our old people and to include them in the lives of their families and communities.

We thank you for Jesus, your son, who as a young man carried within himself the wisdom and knowledge given by you, God for all times and ages. We also thank you that Jesus will meet us at the darkness at the end of our earthly life and lead us to the brightness of the eternal life.

All: Guide our steps through all ending-times. Fill us with your peace as you enfold us with the great mystery of night until morning calls us forth again. Creator of kindness, hear our prayers.

Prayers for the North

Holy God, Mysterious One. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the north; the spirits of all people to the north who have gone before us, the spirits of those who are yet to come. We pray for all people who now live to the north of us. (Particular intentions may be named) We thank you for the colour white, the sacred colour of the north, the colour of the blanket of snow which covers mother earth while she sleeps. We are reminded of the purity of the white snow, the purity you expect in the lives of your people, the purity which comes when you forgive our mistakes.
We thank you for the medicine of the north, sweetgrass. As we offer the sweetgrass we thank you for our spiritual elders who teach us of your forgiveness. We thank you that as we burn the sweetgrass we are purified from uncleanness and are then able to find your presence in our lives.

Help us, Creator God, to respect our spiritual leaders and to assist them in their journey among us. Help those of us who are spiritual leaders to be conscious of the responsibility given to us by you and by our people. Help all your people to turn to you for forgiveness and purity of life. We thank you for Jesus, your son, by whose blood we are washed clean of our sins and made as white as the snow.

All: Teach us to use with care your gifts;
to love with tenderness
all our relations as gifts from your heart.
Creator of wisdom, hear our prayers.

Presider: Creator, Great Spirit, Gchi Minidoo,
steady in wisdom, prophetic in struggle,
constant in kindness, courting us with hope,
guiding in revelation,
be with us and help us to be with each other.