

Litany of Lament and Repentance

Three candles are lit to represent the voices of Indigenous people, women and biodiversity

God of our vibrant world,

You have given humans the responsibility to care for each other. Indigenous people have historical, spiritual, and personal ties to these lands on which we inhabit. But many of us have failed to recognize the presence of God in these traditions, and their voices have been silenced. We are thankful to Indigenous Nations for their continuing care and presence on the Earth. We value the resilience and strength shown through the generations and today.

We turn to the Spirit who dismantles borders and celebrates life-giving community.

Help us make a place where everyone is welcome and we acknowledge your grace at work in the ways of one another. Together, may we learn the spiritual richness of our relationships in the web of life.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

O God of the whole of creation.

You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced.

You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. The oceans are warming and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled.

We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

Please help us to care for the oceans, the land and the forest, and to recognize that it is your blessing for us.

Creation is speaking to us, but their voices have been silenced by the roar of our greed.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**



Mothering Earth, our Sister, you sustain and govern us. We have silenced the voices of your people, especially the voices of women - protectors of the Earth who have been killed by land grabbers, mining companies and oil companies. Many are the voices of our sisters who have been silenced by flooding, hurricanes and drought as the earth's warming brings destruction. May we listen to the voices of our mothers and sisters and learn to treasure and protect the web of life.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**



We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

Please, Creator God, forgive us for the human activities which have overpowered the weather and caused destruction of our environment.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

(Adapted from a Prayer of Lament written by members of the four Religious Orders in the Anglican Church of Melanesia. Melanesian Brotherhood, Society of St Francis, Community of the Sisters of the Church, Community of the Sisters of Melanesia)

A time of silence as people go forward to extinguish candles in memory of communities that are being wiped out by environmental degradation and creatures that are becoming extinct. For the voices of women, indigenous people and creation that have been silenced.

Turn us O God, from our desire to turn in upon ourselves, refuse to hear the voices of our co-creatures. Call us again, open our ears. Gather us in to relationships of mutual care and listening.

Enlighten us by your Spirit that renews the face of your Earth. Amen.

