

# PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

God in Community, Holy and One.

You are a calling God.

You call us into being,

You call us into community,

You call us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

You, God in community formed the world, our neighbourhood,

Creating it and calling good.

We pray for our neighbourhood and for our neighbours.

The overuse of resources, the effects of climate change, and the contamination of air, land, and water hurts us all,

Help us to see and respond to this hurt in our love, care and stewardship of the environment.

The physical neighbourhood where Armour Heights Presbyterian Church is located is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Seneca and Mississauga of the New Credit Indigenous Peoples.

Help us to show love for our Indigenous neighbours in our response to the hurt caused by Residential Schools,

in our response to the hurt of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls,

in our response to the hurt caused by the lack of clean drinking water in many First Nations communities.

In our response to high suicide rates amongst aboriginal youth,

in our response to the hurt caused by the over-representation of Indigenous children in the foster care system, in the sex trade, and on the streets.

Help us to work for justice and reconciliation as we love our Indigenous neighbours.

Our neighbours are hurting,

Systemic racism spills out in micro-aggressions such as hiring practices, pay scale, and complaints to HR; And across our screens the justice system, policing, and the deaths of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour.

There is an intersectionality in the ways race, poverty, and sexual violence interact.

Let us not be silent -

In the face violence, discrimination and hate on the basis of sex, race, religion, socio-economic status, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Helps us respond with listening and love to the hurts of our neighbours, call forth justice, and work to dismantle the systems of oppression.

We are saddened by the hurts, illnesses, and deaths of our neighbours.

We acknowledge that we cannot be satisfied to simply wish away injustice, war, hunger, homelessness, abuse, addiction, and sexual exploitation.

Help us to respond to our neighbours with love, to meet our neighbours' needs, and heal our neighbours' hurts.

The priest and Levite turned away from the hurts of their neighbour.

May we respond like the Samaritan with love, justice and compassion to the hurts of our neighbours, near and far.

God in Community, Holy and One.

We pray for our neighbourhood and for our neighbours,

We pray in the name of the One who showed us how to love our neighbours, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.