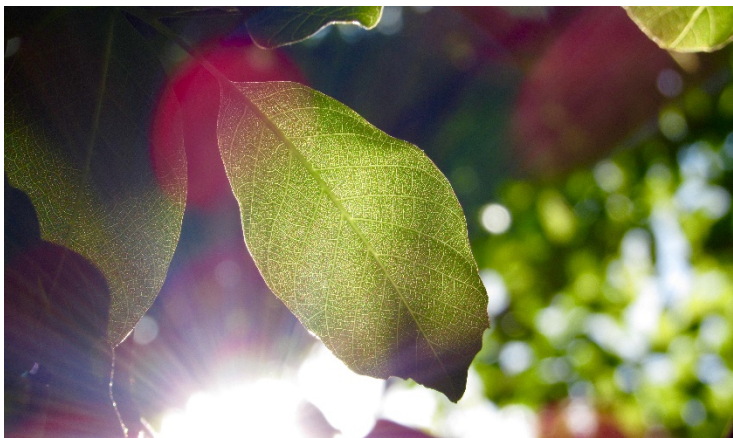




A Prayer for the Day After Canada Day:

Holy, Healing, Loving God. Creator. Heavenly Father. Gracious Mother. We call you by many names, we sing of your mystery revealed in all creation. You are known by faithful people around the world through other practices and through no practice at all. It is breathtakingly beautiful how you find every way possible to be in relationship with what you have created. In you, we discover that you are the ground of our being. And oh, how we wish we could be as faithful to you as you are to us.

It's a very hard day Oh God. It's hard to be a Canadian; a citizen of this land. It's hard to be the church, to claim our relationship with your living Christ. It's hard to sing the songs of our faith and speak of your healing grace when both Canada and the church have conspired against your holy creation. It's hard to hold the beautiful benefits of being Canadian with the weight of its cost. It's hard to hold the promise of this land in all its glorious beauty with the truth that collectively we are destroying it.

The details are staggering and we can barely breathe.

1505 bodies hidden in unmarked graves at sites operated by our brothers and sisters in faith.

Kamloops. Brandon. Marieval, Cranbrook.

A stifling heat wave, so intense that the entire village of Lytton was destroyed by a flash fire
Statues toppled and churches burned

And so for today Oh God, we pray. We cry out sadness and lament, we seek your holy grace as we attempt to find a better way. May the words of our mouths match the actions of steps so that your holy kin-dom has a chance. May we not be so consumed by our horror and grief, that we are blocked from taking one step. A phone call. A letter. A rainbow painted. An orange t-shirt worn. An invitation into allyship extended.

Oh God empower our living when we are powerless. Guide our feet when they have lost their way. May we be the church of Christ's own way for your creation's mending.

For its in that holy name we pray.

Amen.

Handwritten signature of Rev. S. Blair Odney in blue ink.

Rev. S. Blair Odney
President, Pacific Mountain Regional Council

