

Prayer – Prayer of Thanks

In 7 Directions

Leader 1: We will at this time offer words of thanksgiving and prayer to our Lord and Creator, recalling that Christ is the centre of creation, the central reality of God's plan for the world, the central reality of our lives as Christians. As we face each direction, we will respond in prayer. Following each prayer, we will return to face the candle, reminded each time that it is Christ who is able to bring healing and salvation and who by his Spirit is able to renew our lives and our earth.

Leader 2: First, let us all face the candle. (*All face the lit candle and pause.*)

Leader 1: From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light. We offer thanks for the gifts of the Tree world. We offer thanks for new beginnings and for the gift of the yellow race. We offer thanks for the teachings of honesty and illumination.

Leader 2: Let us all face East (*All face East and pause.*) and let us pray:

All: Enable us, O God, to be honest as we come to you this day, giving thanks for all you have made. Help us always to be honest in our relationship to you and to all others. Help us to be wise in our use of the resources of the earth, sharing them in justice, partaking of them in thankfulness. We give thanks to you, O God. (All face the candle and pause.)

Leader 2: From the South come teachings of caring, sharing, warmth and guidance. We offer thanks for the gifts of the Animal world. We offer thanks for the gift of the black race and the call for us to be humble.

Leader 1: Let us face South (*All face South and pause.*) and let us pray:

All: May we walk good paths, O God, living on this earth as sisters and brothers should, showing respect for what you have created, rejoicing in one another's blessings, and sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together with you renewing the face of the earth. We give thanks to you, O God. (All face the candle and pause.)

Leader 2: From the West come teachings of faith. We offer thanks for the gifts of the Rock world and the purifying waters to sustain all living things. We give thanks for the gift of the red race.

Leader 1: Let us now face West (*All face West and pause.*) and pray that the Spirit of God will make our faith as strong as the rock and that the Holy Spirit may again breathe over the waters making them pure, making them fruitful. Let us pray:

All: We pray that we too may be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth and may our faith be strong. We give thanks to you, O God. (All face the candle and pause.)

Leader 2: From the North come purifying winds and the white snow. O God, you have been called the breath and wind of life. You give us strength and endurance for our journey of life. We give thanks for the Plant world and the teachings of kindness and wisdom. We give thanks for the white race.

Leader 1: Let us face North (*All face North and pause.*) and let us pray:

All: *May the air we breathe be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. May we always use the wisdom you have given us to treat each other with kindness. We give thanks to you, O God. (All face the candle and pause.)*

Leader 2: From Above comes the unconditional love of God. Our Lord, God, you are our Maker and Creator.

Leader 1: Let us all look above us (*All face up and pause.*) and let us pray:

All: *May your unconditional love flow through us and into all of our relations. We give thanks that your love is like the wings of the eagle that lifts us up and gives us the strength to continue on. We give thanks to you, O God.*

Leader 2: From the Earth comes the gift of life. We have been given a number of days to live on the earth and then, as we were made from earth, we will return to the earth.

Leader 1: Let us look to the Earth (*All face down and pause.*) and let us pray:

All: *We give thanks for our time on the earth, O God. May we live our lives so that we always honour and glorify you, with every thought, word, and deed. May we live our lives in such a way that life will be better for those who are yet to come, the unborn children. We give thanks to you, O God.*

Leader 2: We are a product of your creation, O God. Let us now look within ourselves.

All: *We give you our hearts, our hands, our mind and our body. We dedicate our lives to you, our Creator and Saviour. As we walk on this earth, may we learn together and celebrate the way of peace, harmony, tranquility in our families, communities, country and world around us.*

Thank you, Jesus. Hear our prayer as we give thanks to You, O God.

adapt. from an Ojibwe six directions prayer by Barb Daniels (Canada) and Neill von Gunten (Canada), 2002.
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