TITe: Indigenous Peoples of Arizona Day

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Church Name: Council for Native American Ministry

Church City: Diocesan Ministry

Endorsed by:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 59th Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona recognize the Indigenous Peoples of Arizona and set aside a day of prayer and reflection to understand our shared history and continue along a path of reconciliation.

Indigenous Peoples of Arizona Day

Suggested Date of Commemoration: The Second Monday of October

At the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori urged us to search for healing for our native communities and to realize that this work will require healing in communities and persons of European immigrant descent. She noted that "colonists, settlers, and homesteaders benefited enormously from the availability of "free" land, and their descendants continue to benefit to this day. That land was taken by force or subterfuge from peoples who had dwelt on it from time immemorial – it was their "promised land." The nations from which the settlers came, and the new nations which resulted in the Americas, sought to impose another culture and way of life on the peoples they encountered. Attempting to remake the land and peoples they found "in their own image" was a profound act of idolatry. Repentance and amendment of life are the answer, and God asks us all – this Church, our partners and neighbors, and the nations which were founded under the Doctrine of Discovery - to the challenging work of reconciliation. The abundant life we know in Jesus Christ is made possible through sacrifice – through repairing what is broken, and finding holiness and healing in the midst of that challenging work. That work is often costly, but it is the only road to abundant life." This day of prayer for the Indigenous Peoples of Arizona is set aside gain understanding of this history and to call us to reconciliation in Christ Jesus.

A Collect for Indigenous Peoples of Arizona Day
Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen

Isaiah 40:25-31
Psalm 19
Philippians 4:4-9
John 1:1-18

(N.B. The proposed Collect and Propers are the ones in use by the Anglican Church of Canada where Indigenous Peoples Day is Celebrated on June 21st and is considered an Other Major Feast that take precedence of a Sunday.)

Explanation: This resolution provides a standard set of propers for congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona to commemorate Indigenous People's Day and would mark it as an optional commemoration within the diocese. The resolution includes the suggested day of commemoration, an explanation for the commemoration for those choosing to celebrate it, a collect, and a set of readings to be used amidst the daily office or a eucharistic celebration. If passed Indigenous People's Day would become equivalent to the commemorations found in Lesser Feasts and Fasts within the bounds of the Diocese of Arizona.