

The Prayers of the People of Montana

Creator God, Grandfather of all nations, we bring our hearts to you in love,
asking for your guidance, healing, and blessing.

We ask your blessing on your people gathered here,
and on all our relations in your church
praying for the coming of your kingdom,
connected to us in love for you.

Our father, *Hear us.*

We ask for your blessing on our leaders:
of our communities, our tribes, our state, and our nation.
Help them to honor the wisdom of the elders,
and teach them to lead us on the road you want us to walk.

Our father, *Hear us.*

We thank you for the gift of Montana, this sacred earth to which we belong.
We thank you for the prairies and mountains, which provide for us and inspire us;
for your sky which blesses us with beauty,
for your holy rivers and streams which supply life-giving water,
for your winds from the Four Sacred Directions, speaking to us of your Spirit,
for your rocks and soil that form this land which holds us.

Our father, *Hear us.*

We thank you for all our relations, your created beings who accompany us in this life:
for the four-leggeds – your animals who walk on the earth,
for the two-leggeds – your birds who fly above us,
for the green beings – your plants that give life to all of us;
from the great trees to the smallest grasses, especially the food plants,
and for the people of all your nations, our neighbors who share this sacred land.
Help us fulfill our pledge to create a clean and healthful environment,
and to live in balance and respect.

Our father, *Hear us.*

We thank you for the wisdom of our ancestors,
who taught us the traditions which guide us.
We thank you for the blessing of our children, the hope of our future.
We thank you for grandmothers and grandfathers who teach us,
for mothers and fathers who care for these members of your family,
and for all who give of themselves for the good of the people.

Our father, *Hear us.*

Grandfather, we ask your help to bring justice to Montana,
our place on your holy earth.
We confess to you that we have been divided
and we have hurt each other.
We have lived apart from each other
and we have not understood each other.
We ask you to forgive us, Grandfather.
Show us how to be true neighbors,
to walk with respect among people of many tribes and nations.
Our father, *Hear us.*

Grandfather, we ask your help for those in need.
We place before you those who need healing in body or mind.
[We pray for _____.]
Our father, *Hear us.*

We place before you those in danger:
those who have lived with violence,
those who have been trafficked, especially the children.
those who have fled from their homes in fear.
Our father, *Hear us.*

We place before you those who do not have enough to eat,
or a safe and secure home,
and all those who live in the despair of need and want.
Our father, *Hear us.*

We thank you for those who have walked on and now live with you
[especially for _____].
We give thanks for all who walked before us and taught us to walk in your way.
Our father, *Hear us.*

Grandfather, we most humbly ask you to hear us,
to receive our thanks for the blessings of this life,
and to teach us to walk the Good Road shown to us by your son, Jesus the Christ.

In his name, we pray to you, our Creator.
So be it, amen.