

A Litany of Reconciliation

Lord, you reached out to us in spite of our rejection of you:

**Deliver us from false pride
and help us to welcome those who disdain, despise or fear us.**

Lord, you called us to love our enemies:

**Remove hate-filled memories from us
and help us to embrace those at odds with us, yesterday, today and tomorrow.**

Lord, you made peace with those who threatened you:

**In that peace which you and not the world gives us,
Help us not to be ruled by fear of others but to find mutual understanding.**

Lord, you challenge us to go beyond merely loving those who love us:

**Recognising that you loved us before we loved you,
help us to reach out to those to whom we do not warm readily.**

Lord, you continue to love despite the desertions and denials of your disciples:

**Free us from paralysing guilt and resentment
and help us to accept the reconciliation offered to us by others.**

All this we pray in the awareness that you sent Jesus to make peace between you and us

and that he has given us the work of making peace.

- adapted by Brian Perkins-McIntosh from a litany by *Ian Gillman of Australia*,
quoted from *Seeing Christ in Others*, edited by Geoffrey Duncan, (UCPH, Toronto, 1998), pg. 240



Henry Martyn Institute's (United Church partner in India) working definition of reconciliation:

***Reconciliation is
a process of struggle,
of bringing together estranged people,
leading towards transformed relationships and structures,
based on justice.***

Towards a deeper understanding of reconciliation, we can say, reconciliation:

- is like a bridge
- is a risk
- is a process
- is a healing experience
- changes relationships
- restores connections to the community
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