

Prayer for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812
June 18, 2012

God of peace,

We remember the violence, fear and pain that came to the St. Lawrence River Valley 200 years ago as the United States declared war on Great Britain, sending armies and navies into battle and neighbours against each other.

We thank you that Canada and the United States have been at peace since that war, and now enjoy friendship.

We pray that peace may continue to prevail between our countries.

We remember the impact of that war on the Native peoples of North America, and how the conflict led to the First Nations losing much of their territories. We pray for reconciliation with indigenous nations.

In your Spirit, help us to remember and honour all who died two centuries ago, as we work for peace in our homes, our communities, our church, and our world.

We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Written by Rev. Daniel Hayward, Trinity Ingleside and Newington United Churches, Ontario, for the Black River-St. Lawrence Association (United Church of Christ)/Seaway Valley Presbytery (The United Church of Canada) International Ecumenical Witness for Peace project to mark the War of 1812's bicentennial in Eastern Ontario and New York State's North Country.