A Litany for the G20 Leaders, Part 3

For Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the government of Canada. For the Mississauga Nation, the original stewards of the land on which we are standing; for all of Canada’s aboriginal peoples, who face systemic discrimination, the loss of their lands and traditions, poverty and disenfranchisement.

For those in this wealthy city who live in poverty and hunger, for the 373,000 children in poverty in Ontario, for all those who rely on food banks and meal programmes, for those who are homeless and those who are living in substandard conditions; for the homeless men and women who have died on the streets of Toronto.

For all those threatened by Canadian mining interests overseas, including the people of the Ipili tribe in Papua New Guinea; those living near Barrick’s North Mara mine in Tanzania, where potentially life-threatening levels of arsenic have been discovered; the victims of human rights violations committed by Goldcorp Inc at the Marlin gold mine in Guatemala; for the Mayan people attacked and killed for protesting against HudBay’s nickel mine in El Estor, Guatemala.

For the police and security forces on the streets today and those who were on the streets during the G20 summit, for their safety and well-being, in the hope that they will act with restraint and good judgement, and that those who failed to do so may come to recognize their own complicity; for all those businesses and neighbourhoods damaged by violence; for all protestors, that they too may exercise restraint and refrain from violence, and may remember that we are all engaged in trying to create a more peaceful world. For all those who have been arrested while engaged in protests and for those who carried out the arrests, for all those involved in the courts and legal processes, for those imprisoned and those who work in the prison system, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer