Invite the children to come forward. Ask one or two children to hold a large cross, preferably one that is wooden or that was created by indigenous people. It should be lifted up so everyone can see it. Invite the other children to form a circle around the students who are holding the cross.

Ask congregants to stand symbolically in each direction of the church

**East:** holding a large photo of the sun rising

**South:** an older person carrying a baby

**West:** the baptismal font

**North:** flags or other fabric gently waving as if being moved by the wind *(perhaps place a fan behind them)*

Explain:
Today we are celebrating Native American United Methodists and the ministries in their communities. We remember that, as followers of Jesus, we are more alike than we are different. And, sometimes, we might sing different songs or pray differently.

I want to share a prayer that Native Americans who are part of the Lakota Tribe might say in their church on a Sunday morning.

As we say this prayer, we will move toward the direction that is suggested in the prayer. We remember that Jesus Christ is the center of creation, of our lives and of the world. We ask each direction to share a form of wisdom. Then, from each direction, we will return to the center, reminded that Christ brings healing and wholeness to every place on earth.

**Point out which direction is north, south, east and west.**

The litany is printed in the bulletin, and the rest of the congregation is invited to respond by saying what is in bold.

**Let us be silent as we face our center point.**

**Litany:**
TRADITIONAL LAKOTA TRIBE PRAYER, ALT.
United Methodist Book of Worship, 470

**Let us face East.**
*(All people face East.)*
From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we glean wisdom and knowledge through desert silences and humble service.

**Enable us, O God, to be wise in our actions and in our use of the resources of the earth, sharing them in justice, partaking of them in gratitude.**
*(All people return facing center.)*
Let us face South.
(All people face South.)

From the South come guidance and the beginning and end of life.

May we walk good paths, O God, living on the earth as sisters and brothers should, rejoicing in one another’s blessing and sympathizing in one another’s sorrows and, together, look to you, seeking the new heaven and earth.
(All people return facing center.)

Let us face West.
(All people face West.)

From the West come purifying waters.

We pray that water might be pure and available to all, and that we, too, may be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth.
(All people return facing center.)

Let us face North.
(All people face North.)

From the North come strong winds and gentle breezes.

May the air we breathe be purified and may our lives feel that breath of the Spirit, strengthening and encouraging us.
(All people return facing center.)

If we walked a path in each direction, the sacred paths would form a cross.

Returning to the center, we discover Christ, who calls us and challenges us. Amen.