For thousands of years, the space where we prayerfully gather today was under the care of the SPECIFY THE NATIVE PEOPLE WHO ORIGINALLY LIVED WHERE YOUR CHURCH IS (for example: the Wappinger people, specifically the Kitchewan tribe). Their presence in this region is remembered and woven into the history of our community. On this Native American Ministries Sunday and every day, we are encouraged to be mindful of healing past harms while moving forward with awareness and respect, celebrating and embracing the contributions of First Americans.

**INVOCATION**

Divine Creator,
Thank you for turning our mourning into dancing,
Our weeping into joy.
Open us to your Spirit
As we worship you.
Open our eyes to experience the risen Christ in new ways that nourish us and make us instruments to share your love and grace with everyone.
In the name of the One whose way we follow, Amen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ the Lord is risen today!
Alleluia!
We gather in the name of the resurrected Lord Jesus.
We sing praises to God and give thanks.
We gather in celebration of Native American United Methodists recognizing that weeping may linger for the night,
But joy comes with the morning.
Through our connections through Christ, God is turning our mourning into dancing and clothing us with joy.
God of joy, we give thanks to you forever!
Christ the Lord is risen today!
Alleluia!

**HYMN: “AMAZING GRACE”**

UMH 378 verse1, Cherokee, verse 2, Creek, verse 3
PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Merciful God, often we get so caught up in the letter of the law that we lose sight of the spirit of the law. We remember with shame the impact of laws like the Doctrine of Discovery that corrupted your will and inflicted harm on generations of Native Americans. In our self-righteous lack of understanding, we continue to persecute your children. Too often, we are the instrument that pierces your hands and feet. Forgive us for the pain that we cause others. Open our eyes to see you in our neighbor. Transform us into instruments of your good news.

(silence is held)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Saul was filled with threats and murder against followers of Jesus. Yet, God turned him around and used him as an instrument to share the good news of forgiveness found in Jesus Christ. God’s amazing grace is an invitation to “The Way” of repentance, healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Jesus, know that you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

MISSION MOMENT: NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Before us it is blessed, behind us it is blessed, below us it is blessed, above us it is blessed, around us it is blessed as we set out with Christ.

Our speech is blessed as we set out for God. With beauty before us, with beauty behind us, with beauty below us, with beauty above us, with beauty around us, we set out for a holy place indeed. Amen.

TRADITIONAL NAVAJO PRAYER, ALT.
From The United Methodist Book of Worship, 562

“Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.”

ACTS 9:1-20
PSALM 30