

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Call to Worship

Leader: Who comes to this house today?

People: We come from the east to celebrate our God who has created the rising sun and has given us a new day.

Leader: Who comes to this place of worship?

People: We come from the north to remember that the One who made us has also shaped the face of icy mountains and snow-swept valleys.

Leader: Who enters into this place of sanctuary?

People: We come from the west, singing of our Maker's love and dancing with the red sun at our backs.

Leader: Who gathers as the church today?

People: We come from the south, our voices rising with the desert winds as we praise the Giver of all life.

Leader: Let us know join together as one body.

All: Worshipping God in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Litany (We suggest that an elder and a child lead this litany.)

Leader-Elder: Our children represent the center of the circle of life.

People: They have so newly spring from the Great Mystery of Creation.

Leader-Child: Our elders represent the power of the circle of life.

People: The wisdom of one generation lights the way for those who walk behind.

Leader-Elder: God creates every person a sacred being, an image of the face of God.

People: God connects us all to one another, part of the great wheel turning.

Leader-Child: Through the Son, God shows us the way to live within the circle of life.

People: Christ has shown us the way.

Leader-Elder: Let us live as beloved children.

People: Follow Christ in the circle of life!

Leader-Child: Let us live as beloved elders.

All: Follow Christ in the circle of life! Amen.

Prayer

God of all creation, we gather as your people on this day you have made. We give thanks for the evidence of your presence found all around us. Help us to love your world and all in it, as you have so loved us. On this day, when our community celebrates the ministry of Native Americans, open us to a deeper understanding of who we are in relationship with one another. Remind us that the native peoples of the United States provided so many with the means of survival in times past. Remind us that native peoples freely taught and shared the wisdom of ancient societies with the stranger and the alien. Help us to remember that the earth is sacred to Native Americans and to treat the earth with respect. We celebrate Native American ministries today and always. Help us to recognize the value of the road each has walked to arrive at this place and the value of the shared journey before us all. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Suggested Hymns

- “Many and Great, O God,” *UMH* 148
- “Daw-Kee, Aim Daw-Tsi-Taw”, (“Great Spirit, Now I Pray”), *UMH* 330
- “We Are the Church,” *UMH* 558
- “Cherokee Hymn 36: Heaven Beautiful,” *Voices* 16
- “Choctaw Hymn 21: Sinners, Can You Hate the Savior?” *Voices* 22

Suggested Scriptural Readings (Revised Common Lectionary)

- Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
- Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
- Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Benediction

(Adapted from Colossians 2:6)

As God has loved you, go forth and love the circle of life created by God’s hand. As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in Christ. May you be a blessing to all whose paths cross your own. Amen.

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