

Native American Ministries #4

Discipleship Ministries: The United Methodist Church

A Native American Interpretation of the 23rd Psalm

THE GREAT FATHER above a SHEPHERD CHIEF IS.
I am His and with Him I want not .
He throws out to me a rope
and the name of the rope is love
and he draws me to where the grass is green
and the water is not dangerous,
and i eat and lie down and am satisfied.
Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down
but He lifts me up again and draws me into a good road.
His name is WONDERFUL.

Sometime, it may be very soon, it may be a long long time,
He will draw me into a valley.
It is dark there, but I'll not be afraid,
for it is between those mountains
that the SHEPHERD CHIEF will meet me
and the hunger that I have in my heart will be satisfied.

Sometimes he makes the love rope into a whip,
but afterwards He gives me a staff to lean upon.
He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods.
He put His hand upon my head and all the "tired" is gone.
My cup he fills till it runs over.
What I tell is true.
I lie not.

These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me
through this life and after;
and afterwards I will go to live in the Big Teepee
and sit down with the SHEPHERD CHIEF forever.

--- From the West Michigan Conference

<http://www.gbod.org/resources/a-native-american-interpretation-of-the-23rd-psalm>