



NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

LITURGY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®



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These worship resources may be used whenever the congregation celebrates Native American Ministries Sunday. They are designed to be integrated into worship and may be adapted. Consider including the liturgy in a printed bulletin or handout to remind congregants of this special day in the life of the church. A coordinated sermon starter ([link](#)) and offering talk ([link](#)), along with children's resources ([link](#)), help tie together the fullness of this special Sunday.

OPENING STATEMENT

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 Kitchawank 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.



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INVOCATION

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

O Great Spirit,
whose breath gives life to the world,
and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze;
We need your strength and wisdom.
Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us eyes
ever to behold the red and purple sunset.
Make us wise so that we may understand
what you have taught us.
Help us learn the lessons you have hidden
in every leaf and rock.
Make us always ready to come to you
with clean hands and steady eyes,
so when life fades, like the fading sunset,
our hearts come to you without shame. Amen

— TRADITIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYER, #329, THE UNITED METHODIST HYMNAL

CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON PSALM 116:1-4,12-19 AND LUKE 24:13-35)

Leader: Christ the Lord is risen today!

People: Alleluia!

Leader: What shall we return to the Lord for the abundance we have received?

People: Our hearts are burning to praise God today.

Leader: We lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

People: Our hearts are burning to connect with one another.

Leader: We pay our vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people.

People: Our hearts are burning with recognition of the risen Christ among us.

Leader: Christ the Lord is risen today!

People: Alleluia!



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HYMN: “AMAZING GRACE”

#378, The United Methodist Hymnal – Select from Cherokee, Navajo, Kiowa, Creek and Choctaw verses.

NATIVE AMERICAN CREED

I believe in God, Creator of our unique native languages,
Who gifted us this identity as a distinct people through
our native tongues,
so that our native spiritual leaders could relay God’s love
to our native people who could not understand
that foreign tongue called English.

I believe in Jesus Christ, our relative,
Who talked of us when he said, “I have other sheep out there,
besides those I have here.”

I believe in Jesus Christ who knew the pain of our native
people who were forced from their homeland and had no
place to lay their head.

I believe in Jesus Christ as our Chief Cornerstone as we
begin to build a new generation of native spiritual leaders.

I believe in Jesus Christ who does not say “goodbye”
in any language, but says “I will come again.”

I believe in the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire
lighting upon our native people to witness to their people
and to the world, through the native song and dance.

I believe in the Holy Spirit as our guide and the
driving force for our native people to do a new thing
as we walk a new journey, toward perfection for
all humankind.



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The Rev. Roger Scott is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. His poetic interpretation of Luke 2:8-11 draws upon his experiences from the powwow culture within Native America.

BENEDICTION

As we depart from one another, remember, Creator God was here before we came and will be here after we depart. Creator God came in with us and will stay with us when we depart. We are all connected to each other and to our Creator. All praise to Creator God! Amen.

*Excerpt from the Native American Writing Group of the Open Source Liturgy Project
(Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church)*



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