

# Native American Ministries Sunday

LITURGY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



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## LITURGY

These worship resources may be used whenever your congregation celebrates Native American Ministries Sunday. They are designed to be integrated into your worship service and can be adapted for your context. Consider sending the liturgy to your congregation ahead of time as a reminder of this special day in the life of the church. A sermon starter and offering talk along with youth and children's resources help to tie together the fullness of this Special Sunday.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER — APRIL 18, 2021

Acts 3:12-19 | Psalm 4 | 1 John 3:1-7 | Luke 24:36b-48

*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 (this map can help you identify the territory your church occupies: <https://native-land.ca/>). 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\*

Creator, we give you thanks for all that you are and all that you bring to us within your creation. In Jesus, you placed the gospel in the Center of the Sacred Circle through which all creation is related. On this Native American Ministries Sunday show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever.

Amen.



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### CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ the Lord is Risen today!

**Alleluia**

L: Every part of this earth is sacred.

**P: Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore,  
every mist in the dark woods,  
every clearing and humming insect is holy.**

L: The rocky crest, the meadow, the beasts and all  
the people, all belong to the same family.  
Teach your children that the earth is our mother.

**P: Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children  
of the earth.**

**We are part of the earth,  
and the earth is a part of us.**

L: The rivers are our brothers; they quench  
our thirst.

**P: The perfumed flowers are our sisters,  
the air is precious,  
for all of us share the same breath.**

L: The wind that gave our grandparents breath  
also receives their last sigh.

**P: The wind gave our children the spirit of life.**

L: This we know, the earth does not belong to us.

**P: We belong to the earth.**

L: This we know, all things are connected.

**P: Like the blood which unites one family, all  
things are connected.**

L: Our God is the same God, whose compassion  
is equal for all.

**P: For we did not weave the web of life.  
We are merely a strand in it.**

L: Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves.

**P: Let us give thanks for the web and the circle  
that connects us.**

**Thanks be to God, the God of all.**

*United Methodist Book of Worship* INSPIRED BY ORATION OF  
CHIEF SEATTLE, NATIVE AMERICAN, U.S.A., 19TH CENT.

Christ the Lord is Risen today!

**Alleluia**

**Hymn UMH 78 Heleluyan**

### PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND HOPE\*

Let us come together now in prayer, recognizing  
brokenness suffered, wounds not yet healed, and  
our hope for peace and restoration. (Pause)



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O Great Spirit, God of all people and every tribe, through whom all people are related, call us to the kinship of all your people. Grant us vision to see through the lens of justice, the brokenness of the past. In your great love, O God, Hear our prayers. (Pause)

Help us to listen to you and to one another, in order to heal the wounds of the present. And give us courage, patience, and wisdom to work together for healing and hope with all of your people, now and in the future. In your great love, O God, Hear our prayers. (Pause)

Mend the hoop of our hearts and let us live in justice and peace through Jesus Christ, the One

who comes to all people that we might live in dignity.  
Amen.

### **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.

—The Rev. Anita Phillips, Oklahoma Indian  
Missionary Conference

*\* Parts of this liturgy have been adapted from liturgy prepared by the Church of the Apostles, a mission of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia.  
<https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/Liturgy-for-Celebrating-Indigenous-Peoples-Day-2020.pdf>*



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