

COSSO Spiritual Formation
Friday Gathering, October 11, 2024

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE
"All Connected in a World of Balance"

Native American Ministries Sunday is a special giving Sunday on April 14, 2024.

Native American Awareness Sunday is September 19, 2024.

Native American Heritage is celebrated on any Sunday!



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PRELUDE

WELCOME & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

GREETING

Cherokee prayer, BOW 458

May the warm winds of heaven blow softly on our house.

May the Great Spirit bless all who enter here.

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, open us to the powerful winds of your Spirit.

Open our eyes to the wonders of your creation.

Open our ears to the words of justice and truth.

Open our mouths to the taste of freedom and love.

Open us to the touch of our sisters and brothers.

Let us praise the God who formed the mountains and created the wind and gave birth to us in the divine image.

Let us turn to God, so justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

OPENING PRAYER

Dakota prayer, BOW 468

O Great Spirit, you have always been and nothing has been before you.

There is no one to pray to but you.

You are older than all need, older than all pain and prayer.

O Great Spirit, fill us with light.

Give us strength to understand and hearts to see.

Teach us to walk the earth as relatives to all.

Help us, for without you we are nothing. Amen.

HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

UMH 378

CREATOR'S STORY

(FNV, First Nations Version New Testament)

From James 1:21

So scrape off all the mud of your evil ways and humbly receive the message that the Great Spirit has planted deep within you. This will set your heart free and make your mind whole.

From Acts 2:42-47

⁴² This newly formed family continued daily to learn from the twelve message bearers. They lived together in harmony, ate ceremonial meals, and prayed with one another.

⁴³ Great respect and awe came down upon all, and the message bearers performed many powerful signs. ⁴⁴ As these new followers lived together in peace, their harmony grew stronger, and they shared all things. ⁴⁵ Many of them had a giveaway to provide for all who were in need. ⁴⁶ Each day they gathered at the sacred lodge. With good and pure hearts, they feasted together in their homes and shared the ceremonial meal of frybread and wine given to them by Creator Sets Free (Jesus). ⁴⁷ They gave honor and thanks to the Great Spirit and were respected by the people. Each day Creator sent more people who were being set free to join with them.

WORDS FROM NEEAKE

Rev Fred A Shaw, Neeake of the Shawnee Nation United Remnant Band, elder West Ohio Conference.

HYMN

"He is Lord"

UMH 177

CALLED TO THE SACRED CIRCLE

adapted from Lakota prayer, BOW 470

We lift our prayers in the four directions, as we hold the world and each other in our circle. Let us begin with a moment of silence as we focus on the One who has brought us here...

CENTERING PRAYER

Let us face East. From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we gain wisdom and knowledge through desert silences and humble service:

(lift candle)

Enable us, O God, to be wise in our actions and in our use of all that we have received, sharing our wisdom in justice, using our knowledge in gratitude.

Let us face South. From the South, come guidance and the beginning and end of life:

(lift candle)

May we walk good paths, O God, living on Earth as sisters and brothers, rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together look to you, seeking the renewal of the Earth as in heaven.

Let us face West. From the West, come life-giving waters:

(lift candle)

We pray that water might be pure and available to all, and that we, too, may receive that life-giving water and thirst no more, so that life may be nourished and whole over the entire Earth.

Let us face North. From the North, come strong winds and gentle breezes:

(lift candle)

May the air we breathe be clean and fresh, and may our lives feel the breath of the Spirit, strengthening and encouraging us.

Let us return to the center. If we walked a path in each direction, our paths would form a cross: *(lift candle)*

May we always return to the center where we meet Christ, who calls us and challenges us all our days on earth and in heaven. Amen.

HYMN

“The Summons”

TFWS 2130

UNISON BLESSING "Shawnee Traveling Song"

BOW 197

Please join me in the Shawnee Traveling Song. As I say the trivial words, you may repeat the indwelling song:

Hey a lo-ma. Hey a lo-ma. Hey o-pa-lo-ma...

I am walking upon the earth; the earth is my mother.

Wherever I walk, I will be home.

Hey o-pa-lo-ma, Hey o-pa-lay.

***I am walking with the people who love me,
their love surrounds me.***

Wherever I walk, I will be loved.

Hey o-pa-lo-ma, Hey o-pa-lay.

Hey o-pa-lo-ma, Hey o-pa-lay.

***I am walking on the circle of Creator,
Creator above, Creator below.***

Wherever I walk, I am with Creator.

Hey o-pa-lo-ma, Hey o-pa-lay.

a Hey o-pa-lay, a Hey o-pa-lay.

*Together we say: **a Hey!***

DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

UMH 95

CHEROKEE PRAYER BLESSING

May the Warm Winds of Heaven

Blow softly upon your house.

May the Great Spirit

Bless all who enter there.

May your Moccasins

Make happy tracks in many snows,

And may the Rainbow

Always touch your shoulder.

All: And may we have the energy and desire to devote this day to our studies!!

POSTLUDE

Sources:

First Nations Version New Testament (FNV), an indigenous translation by First Nations Version Translation Council (InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, IL, 2021 Rain Ministries, Inc.)

Wildman, Terry M., When the Great Spirit Walked Among Us: Four Gospels One Story (Maricopa, AZ: Great Thunder Publishing,

UMC Native American heritage month: www.umcdiscipleship.org

UMC Book of Worship & Hymnal

<http://www.sapphyr.net/natam/quotes-nativeamerican.htm>

Consultation and permission from Rev Fred A Shaw, Neeake, Shawnee descendant, elder West Ohio Conference, former director and founder of Native American Course of Study (NACOS).