

A Liturgy for Native American Sunday

October 27, 2013

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****Note:** In Choctaw Presbytery, of course, every Sunday is Native American Sunday! The lectionary, prayers, songs, hymns, are very adaptable to a Native American worship service. Sermons can take a Native American flavor by searching out Indian/Native American issues, happenings, etc. These are posted on Tribal websites, Tribal newspapers, news stations/streams, etc. For Choctaws, go to www.choctawnation.com. The week of October 21-27 could be designated “Buy Indian/Native American Week” to encourage people to intentionally search for Indian/Native Americans and buy their products which can be art, books, clothing items, drums, food, videos, movies, etc. There are 500-plus nations, tribes, bands in the United States.

Call to Worship

Everything as it moves, now and then, here and there, makes pauses.

The bird, as it flies, stops on one place to make its nest,

And another to rest in its flight.

In the same way, God pauses, leaving the touch of the Holy Spirit in all of creation.

We too, have the Holy touch in our beings.

Let us now pause ourselves, and listen for the voice of God on our hearts.

Call to Confession

We have not always done what is right. Let us now lift up prayers for justice.

Prayer of Confession

O Mighty One, when we have not beheld the winds, the beauty of the purple sunset, and the mystery you hide under ever leaf and rock, forgive us.

When we do not humble ourselves and recognize that we are small and weak and you are strong and wise, forgive us.

Make my hands respect the things you have made.

Give me strength, but not to fight, but to lift up.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

In Jesus our Brother's name. Amen.

(Adapted from Gifts of Many Cultures)

Assurance of Pardon

God is a good God, one that sees our fault and still chooses to forgive us. We give you thanks O God for your mercy. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

O Great Spirit, make my eyes behold your truth.

Make my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I may understand.
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

Deuteronomy 7:6-8, and John 3:16—Why did God choose the Jews? Why did God choose you?

A Litany of Thanksgiving for the Americas and their People

Leader: For the flesh of the earth; for the silver and gold of the southern mountains, which gave wealth to the western world and enabled many millions to come to these continents;

People: For the silver and gold of the northern mountains, which prospered these new arrivals; for all these precious metals, which were remade into the coins of kingdoms and brought to birth a new world economy,

All: We offer a song of honor and thanks.

Leader: For human flesh, the native peoples of South and North America, whose lives were forfeit in wars, massacres, sickness and starvation;

People: Whose labor built new cities, industries, fortunes and dynasties; whose freedom was the price of progress and whose slavery was the foundation of settlement,

All: We offer a song of honor and thanks.

Leader: For the fruits of the earth and the skill of native hands; for cotton which clothed millions for the first time, for the rich dyes which brought them color,

People: For rubber which spawned thousands of new inventions, for the technology and industry which rose from these gifts,

All: We offer a song of honor and thanks.

Leader: For the unending basket of food, coaxed from Mother Earth by the hands of her Indian children; for potatoes, corn, beans, squash, peanuts, and sweet potatoes;

People: For the skill in planting, care and harvesting taught freely to the Europeans, for all these things which brought health and growth to the populations of Europe and new settlers to American shores,

All: We offer a song of honor and thanks.

Leader: For the makings of medicine; for quinine, ipecac, curare, petroleum jelly, witch hazel and a host of medications;

People: For the medicine women and men who shared them freely,

All: We offer a song of honor and thanks.

Leader: For rivers and streams, passes and paths; for the path making and path taking of America's first peoples, for their leading the newcomers across these paths,

All: We offer a song of honor and thanks.

People: For personal liberty; for the freedom found first by European-Americans in the lodges and circles of Indian tribes, for the tribal governments of federated nations that gave birth to American democracy.

All: We offer a song of honor and thanks.

All: Accept, O God, our honor song, and make our hearts thankful for what we have been given. Make our hearts humble for what we have taken. Make our hearts thoughtful to make some return. Make our hearts strong to do as you bid us, in the name of our Brother and Savior, Jesus Christ your Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Because you have granted us a measure of understanding, O God, we want to learn more. Because we have found your promises to be true, we want to share them. Because we have experienced the truth concerning the stewardship of a life well-lived, we ask that others know the truth as well. We use our offerings to accomplish more than we could ever imagine.

As we sing, let us lay our gifts of tithes, offerings, and our hearts on the Lord's table.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Accept, O God, our offerings, and make our hearts thankful for what we have been given. Make our hearts humble for what we have taken. Make our hearts thoughtful to make some return. Make our hearts strong to do as you bid us, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ your Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Doxology

Iki Chihowa fehna ka,
Ushi, Chisvs aiena ka
Shilombish Holitopa ma,
Iloh aiokpahanchashke.

Benediction

Go and live so your spirit may go to God someday without shame. Amen.