

A Liturgy for Native American Sunday

October 25, 2015

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Call to Worship

“My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism...’Love your neighbor as yourself’.”

—(James 2:1, 8))

Opening Hymn “Vba Isht Taloa 48”

(This hymn was written by Alfred Wright, a white missionary in the 1840s. The hymn, “A Prayer to the Holy Spirit” states that it is imperative that the “Holy Spirit come. We poor (needy) people are waiting. (Come and) bless us. Pi chukvsh” (our hearts) if they are asleep, awaken them. Then bless us with forgiveness.” The hymn is common meter and can be sung to traditional English tunes such as “At the Cross,” “Amazing Grace,” “O How I Love Jesus,” and even “Joy to the World”).

Shilombish Holitopa Ma!	Pi chukvsh nusi atukma
Ish minti pulla cha,	Ant ish okchvlashke,
Hatak ilbvsha pia ha	Ish pi yohbiechikbano;
Ish pi yukpalashke.	E chim aiahnishke

Invocation and Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

(The offering is taken at the beginning of the service and may not be done this way in non-Indian congregations. The theology behind this is to convey that the first thing I do is to come, giving myself and what I have.)

“...God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

—(John 3:16)

“I gave my life for thee, What hast thou given to me?”

—(from the hymn “I Gave My Life for Thee”)

Offering

As we sing “Vba Isht Taloa 59” let us bring forward our tithes, our offerings and our hearts as a gift to our Savior God.

(“Vba Isht Taloa 59” is a hymn of dedication of myself, “Immi toba lashke,” making myself to be Christ’s. (v. 2b) “Sa chukvsh...Ima li pullashke,” I give my heart to him (v. 3 and v. 4 says “Okla (as in Okla homa) e moma” Let all us people honor Jesus in this way.)

Vba Isht Taloa 59

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|---|---|
| 1. Vno n <u>a</u> sa yimmit
Chisvs pulla hoka
Im antia li mak ocha
Hikia li hoke. | 2. Vba <u>A</u> ki yokvt
Sa hohoyo hoka
Holitoblit wakaya lish
Immi toba lashke. |
| 3. Sai okchaya taklvt,
Vba <u>A</u> ki yoka
Sa chukvsh oka mominchit
Ima li pullashke. | 4. Okla e moma kvt
Chisvs pulla hoka
Anukchetot, holitoblit,
Iloh aiashashke. |

Offertory Prayer

Youth Scripture Lesson

(All youth are asked to come to the front to lead in the Responsive Reading, a hymn or Christian song, to lead in the Apostle’s Creed, to bless and be blessed.)

Responsive Reading “Challenge to Youth”

Hymn “Love Divine”

The Apostle’s Creed

The Blessing

Youth: The Lord be with you!
Adults: And also with you.
Youth: Lift up your hearts
Adults: We lift them to the Lord!
**All: Let us worship the God who loves us, claims us,
calls us and remains ever faithful.**

Prayers for the People of God

O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds,
And whose breath gives life to all the world,
Hear me!
I am small and weak,
I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty,
And my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset,
My ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I may understand things you have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.
I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,
But to fight my greatest enemy—myself.
Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame. Amen.

Scripture Lesson Possibilities

- Hebrew Scripture
- Christian Scripture
- Choctaw Testament

(The “Choctaw Testament” is one of the scriptures of the day being read in Choctaw.)

Leader: The word of God for the children of God

People: Thanks be to God!

Communion

(The only difference in the celebration of the death-salvation provided for us by Jesus of Nazareth is that when the elements are brought by the elders all who partake, stand up. To stand is to honor the calling of God through the Passover event showing that God’s chosen people would be made free from slavery and bondage in Egypt. A requirement of God for the people was unleavened bread, manner of eating and that belts be fastened, shoes on the feet, coats on, walking stick in hand and standing. To the non-Indian CP Churches that remembrance, we assume, is shown in the using of unleavened bread, which we also do.)

Doxology

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

Closing Prayer