

## **A Liturgy for Native American Sunday**

**October 23, 2016**

**Mary McCaskey Benedict**

### **Call to Worship**

As the sun rises in the morning and the moon sets in the evening, fill our day with your light and blessing and help us to rise and set in you. Yahoke!

### **Call to Confession**

Leader: We have not run the race to the finish.

**People: Our vision has been clouded.**

Leader: We have aimed at the mark and we have missed.

**People: Our vision has been misdirected.**

Leader: We have gone to the river and not waded in.

**People: Our vision has been fearful.**

Leader: We have gone to the mountain and have not climbed.

**People: Our vision has been short-sighted.**

**All: Remove our fear and give us a new vision. Amen.**

*(Let all present spend a moment in silence examining their walk in the Way.)*

### **Prayer of Confession**

O Great Spirit, we have not paid attention to your planting, your growth, your produce and your people. Your winds have blown and we have not been moved. Your sun has shined and we have grown cold. There are many days we never think about you. We go in search of that which does not fulfill. Forgive us and turn our hearts toward you. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

As high as heaven is over the earth, so strong is God's love to those who fear God. And as far as sunshine is from sunset, the Lord has separated us from our sins.

*—Psalm 103:11-12*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

O Great Spirit, come.

Illumine us, cleanse us, move us.

As light, fire and wind,

Give us the truth.

And help us to speak that truth in your name. Amen.

### **Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon**

- Psalm 65 (A Psalm of Thanksgiving for the earth's bounty)

- Luke 18:9-14 (A parable noting that even those despised by others can find grace in the Great Spirit)

Both of these passages are for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost and can be well be adapted.

### **Prayers of the People: A Bidding Prayer**

As children of the Great Spirit, we remind ourselves of those events that draw us close to you.

- We pray for our families as they encounter the daily events of living...
- We remember the gifts you have given us and seek to use them wisely...
- We encounter the unknown and ask you to guide us in wise paths...
- When we wander astray, we ask for directions toward the right...
- As we make decisions, speak to us in ways we can understand...
- Help make us brave and daring to follow you...
- And last of all, we pray for the spirit of those departed that you have called from this earth to the great unknown...
- All of this we offer in our understanding of ourselves and as much as you have revealed to us about you. Amen.

### **Invitation to the Offering**

*(This can be used at any time during the service, but it is suggested that the offerings be brought to the altar by the people, usually while singing a hymn.)*

O Great Spirit, you have given us all things in the earth. You have filled our baskets to the brim. Because you have filled our baskets, your goodness runs over and we celebrate by returning to you a portion of your gift in thanksgiving. Use it as you use us.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

O Great Spirit, we thank you for your gifts even as we seek to make those gifts symbols of our worth and your choosing to keep us close by your side. Amen.

### **Benediction**

Let us walk in peace.

Let us share the spirit.

Let us claim the truth. Amen.

*Suggested Hymn: Jesus Loves Me, This I Know with the chorus being sung in American Indian (Cherokee)*

*Tsis a ki ke u, tsis a ki ke yu,*

*Tsis a ki ke yu, a khi no hih se ho.*