

# Liturgy for Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day

*You may use all or part of this liturgy in your worship service. For the written prayers of lament and the prayers for healing and restoration (A and B), consider placing a bowl on the altar or a blanket in an appropriate place. Please include the credit for the source from which this liturgy was adapted in your worship bulletin.*

## WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

*Words of Welcome*

Please stand as you are able for our opening prayer:

**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. You 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.**

## OPENING SONG

Throughout history, we, as primarily white Christians, have been the biggest problem for Native Americans.

Tomorrow much of this country, still after all these years, will celebrate Columbus Day. It is no secret at this point that Columbus's arrival in 1492 was just the beginning of a terrible and brutal history of violence and oppression toward indigenous peoples of North America. Columbus and those who followed were obsessed with conversion, brought over disease the natives had no way to cure, and ultimately desecrated entire peoples and cultures. Today we want to acknowledge this history. We want to be honest about the ways our faith tradition has been used to colonize, to abuse, and to oppress people. And we seek to reclaim the truth of the Gospel: that Christ came to love and to serve, not to conquer and enslave.

Let us open our hearts, and begin our worship with confession:

*Pause*

O Great Spirit, God of every people and every tribe, we come to you as your many children, to ask for your forgiveness and guidance. Forgive us for the

colonialism that stains our past, the ignorance that allowed us to think that we could claim another's home for our own.

Heal us of this history. Remind us that none of us were discovered since none of us were lost, but that we are all gathered within the sacred circle of your community. Guide us through your wisdom to restore the truth of our heritage.

Help us to confront the racism that divides us as we confess the pain it has caused to the human family. Call us to kinship. Mend the hoop of our hearts and let us live in justice and peace, through Jesus Christ, the One who came that all people might live in dignity. Amen.

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

#### SONG

A. You are invited to write down prayers of lament for the brokenness of the past. These may be specific toward the injustice inflicted upon the Indigenous Peoples of North America, or any other area of pain and brokenness that is on your heart today. Place your written prayer in the bowl below.

B. You are invited to write down prayers for healing and restoration. These may be specific toward the injustice inflicted upon the Indigenous Peoples of North America, or any other area in need of God's healing and hope. Place your written prayer in the bowl below.

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE

#### SONG

### **PRAYERS FOR HEALING & HOPE**

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

*<Pause>*

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.

*<Open Space prayers of lament for the brokenness of the past.>*

In your great love, O God,

**Hear our prayers.**

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.

*<Open Space prayers for healing and restoration>*

In your great love, O God,

**Hear our prayers.**

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.**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Share with one another a sign of peace.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER *A Native American Prayer of Thankfulness.***

Let us now move into a time of offering.

Let us pray.

**We thank you, Great Spirit, for the resources that made this food possible. We thank the Earth for producing it, and we thank all those who labored to bring it to us. May the Wholesomeness of the food before us, bring out the Wholeness of the Spirit within us.**

**Amen.**

**BLESSING & SENDING**

Please stand and join me in prayer:

**Loving God, we give you thanks for creating all people in your image, and for calling us together this day in humble hope that our offerings, witness, prayers, songs and stories may serve to heal, transform and bind us together in your compassionate wisdom and love.**

**As we leave this Sacred Circle, may we carry away the memory of this time together so that we may continue in the risen life of Christ, the one who comes that all people might live with dignity and in peace. Amen.**

May God bless you and keep you.  
May God's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
May God look upon you with favor  
and give you peace. **Amen.**

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*This liturgy has 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.*

**UMC Lectionary Readings for October 11, 2020**

Old Testament – Exodus 32:1-14

Psalter – Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Epistle – Philippians 4:1-9

Gospel – Matthew 22:1-14