

UNITED UNIVERSITY CHURCH – HOPE ON UNION  
NOVEMBER 6, 2022  
National Native American Heritage Month  
Communion Sunday

RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST PEOPLE

*The Creator made all the people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied the land we are upon. We give thanks to the **Gabrieleño Tangva** people, the first people of this land. We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred in this land. We are also thankful for the People of the Land, and may we be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to be reconciled to those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts, we come in the name of the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit.*

OPENING PRAYER *(Only put the bolded words on the Powerpoint)*

Sunny/Shirley

*The Creator is the Center of Creation. The central reality of the Creator's plan for the world is the central reality of our lives. As we face each of the four directions, as we kneel to Mother Earth, and as we reach to the Heavens, we will respond in prayer. Following each prayer, we will return to face the center, reminded each time that it is our Brother who is able to bring healing and salvation and who, by His Spirit, is able to renew the face of the earth.*

*First, let us all face a center point. (all face center, pause)*

*The start of life's journey, the new day, is the East. It is the place of beginning, the first light, and the possibility of starting again. You have sung us into existence.*

*Let us face East (all face East, pause), and let us pray:*

***Enable us, Creator Spirit, to be wise in our use of the resources of the earth, sharing them in justice, partaking of them in thankfulness. (all face center, pause)***

*The South holds the warmth of summer. It is a time of innocence, of learning, and growth. You have sung us into existence.*

*Let us face South (all face South, pause), and let us pray:*

***May we walk good paths, Creator Spirit, living on this earth as siblings should, rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together with You renewing the face of the earth. (all face center, pause)***

*The West reminds us of the wisdom of maturity with the approaching of the sunset. It is the time of parenthood, responsibility, and good sense – the time to teach, acknowledge, and give thanks. You have sung us into existence. Let us now face West (all face West, pause) and pray that the Spirit of the Creator may again breathe over the waters, making them pure, making them fruitful. Let us pray.*

***We pray that we, too, may be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. (all face center, pause)***

*The North holds the hard, cleaning wisdom of the time of winter and white hair; the elders breathe through the sacred pipe, the grandparents who, on life's great circle, are closest to the little children. You have sung us into existence. Let us face North (all face north, pause) and let us pray.*

***May the air we breathe be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. (all face center, pause)***

From Mother Earth comes all that has life. (Bend and touch Mother Earth and say): You have sung us into existence. Let us kneel or symbolically touch Mother Earth and let us pray:

**May we walk gently upon the earth and leave our footprints softly on what we touch. We raise our hands toward Father Sky.**

In love, Father Sky embraces all of the Earth with His love. (Raise your hands and extend your palms toward the sky.) You have sung us into existence. Let us raise our hands to Father Sky and pray:

**May we see the vastness of Your arms and feel Your embrace of love at all times. A-Ho. Amen.**

You Are Welcome!

*No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey,  
you are welcome here:*

***If you are young or old, you are welcome.***

*If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin,  
or any other color of skin, you are welcome.*

***If you are married or single, divorced or widowed, you are welcome.***

*If you are gay or straight, you are welcome,*

*If you are transgender you are welcome.*

***If you identify as a man, woman, or gender non-conforming, you are welcome.***

*If you are an immigrant, refugee, or citizen, you are welcome.*

***If you cannot hear or see, you are welcome.***

*If you are sick or well, you are welcome.*

***If you are rich or poor, powerful or weak, you are welcome.***

*If you believe in God some of the time,  
none of the time, or all of the time, you are welcome*

...

***You are welcome here!***

***Come with your gifts, your pains and hopes, your fears.***

*Come with traditions that have helped you and hurt you.*

***Come with your experiences that have made you and broken you.***

*Come with a mind ready to engage, and a heart open to discern.*

***Come and listen for the Sacred Spirit that calls you to***

***love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice,***

***create peace and practice compassion***

***You are welcome here***

*One: O Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds*

**All: Whose breath gives life to the entire world, hear us!**

*One: 我們渺小而脆弱*

*(We are small and weak)*

**All: O Great Spirit, we need your strength and wisdom**

*One: चलो सुंदरता में चलते हैं*

*(Let us walk in beauty)*

**All: May our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset**

*One: Oh gran espíritu, haz que nuestras manos respeten las cosas que has hecho*

*(O Great Spirit, make our hands respect the things you have made)*

**All: And our ears sharp to hear your voice**

*One: O dakilang Espiritu, gawin mo kaming madunong*

*(O Great Spirit, make us wise)*

**All: So that we may understand the things you have taught us**

*One: Apprenons les leçons que le Grand Esprit a cachées dans chaque feuille et rocher*

*(Let us learn the lessons the Great Spirit has hidden in every leaf and rock)*

**All: We seek strength,**

*One: 남보다 크지 않게 -> 남보다 위대하지 않게*

*(Not to be greater than others)*

**All: But to fight our greatest enemy – ourselves**

*One: Make us always ready to come without shame*

**All: A-Ho. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

## INVITATION TO PRAYER

OLABISI

*Friends, the Great Spirit looks at our brokenness and invites us to return to the Sacred Way to reform and renew us. Let us go in prayer.*

*First in silence.*

## PRAYER OF WHO WE ARE

*Let us pray together with prayerful hearts.*

*We know that in all Creation, the human family has strayed from the Sacred Way – the*

*way of love, respect, gratitude, and reverence for all life. We know that we are the ones who are divided. And we are the ones who must come back together to walk the Sacred Way – the way of love, respect, gratitude, and reverence for all life. Sacred One, teach us love, compassion, and honor, that we may heal the earth and heal each other.*

## **DECLARATION OF GOD’S LOVE**

*As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God’s mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death to life brings healing and forgiveness to the world today. You are loved; you are restored. In Christ, you are made new. A-Ho. Amen.*

*As loved people of God, I now invite you to greet those around you. Those of you on Zoom, we invite you to hug yourselves with the love of God.*

## **COMMUNION SONG**

## **BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY**

## **PRAYER FOR COMMUNION**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*(The prayer is adapted from the words of Chief Seattle)*

All is Sacred!

**All is Sacred!**

Every part of this earth is Sacred.

**Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore,**

Every mist in the dark woods,

**every clearing and insect is holy.**

The rocky crest, the juices of the meadow, the beasts and all people;

**all belong to the same family.**

Teach your children that the earth is our Mother.

**Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.**

The water's murmur is the voice of our father's father.

**We are a part of the earth and the earth is a part of us.**

The rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst.

**The perfumed flowers are our sisters.**

The air is precious,

**For all of us share the same breath.**

The wind that gave our grandparents breath also received their last sigh.

**The wind gave our children the Spirit of life and will continue.**

This we know: the earth does not belong to us;

**we belong to the earth.**

This we know: all things are connected;

**like the blood which unites our family.**

All things are connected.

**Our God is the same God whose compassion is equal for all.**

We did not weave the web of life;

**we are merely a strand in it.**

Whatever we do to the web,

**we do to ourselves.**

Let us give thanks for the web in the circle that connects us.

**Thanks be to the Creator, the God of All! A-Ho. Amen.**

***(for the PowerPoint, do it like this. Loving and forgiving God.....God, in your mercy, Hear our prayer)***

Loving and forgiving God, we acknowledge that our past is filled with scars inflicted upon Indigenous People who were forced to attend boarding school in which they were robbed of their identity and that the legacy continues through the generations. You invite us to heal this broken history by living as different people today and into our future as we seek to learn what it means to walk together. Give us the courage to confess and own what is ours so that our journey is healing. God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of justice and consolation, as Rachel wept for her children, we grieve the deaths of all Indigenous Peoples who have been murdered over the years. We pray for families who miss their loved ones. Console all who mourn. We also pray for those who are missing and may still be found. For those who hang on to hope in the midst of profound despair, console all who mourn. For all those who have been wounded by senseless acts of violence, bring justice to those who cry out. Remember your beloved children as we remember you. God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Recognizing the harm done to generations of Indigenous People by church and state, we, your people, seek forgiveness, O God, and the Spirit of your Son to walk alongside native people as neighbors on the earth you've given us to share. Help them to see in us an expression of your love and justice. God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that the Indigenous People, whether living on or off the reservation, may be healed of their deep wounds, reclaim the gifts of their cultural heritage, and have access to a good education and productive employment. God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered. Jesus Christ, Holy Child of God, you have prayed for us. With your Spirit that intercedes for us, hear our prayers. Help us to commend our worries and fears to you. In you, our hope rises, and we look for the new life you alone can bring. In the name of Jesus the Christ, the risen one, we lift our prayers. A-Ho. Amen.

**PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US**

**AUREA**

*Let us pray together, the prayer Jesus taught us.*

Great Spirit,

Whose wigwam is in the sky  
And hunting ground is the earth,  
All are afraid of You and mighty are You called;  
Ruler over storm, over the people and birds  
and beasts and mountains – Have Your way over all;  
Over earth-ways and skyways;  
Find us this day our meat and corn that we may be strong and brave,  
And put aside from us wicked ways  
as we put aside the bad of all who do us wrong;  
and let us not have troubles that lead into crooked paths;  
but keep everyone in our circle from all danger;  
for Yours is all that is:  
the earth and sky, the streams, the hills and the valleys,  
the stars, the moon and the sun;  
all that lives and has breath,  
all that has Your life and Spirit with in.  
Wonderful, shining Mighty Spirit!  
A-Ho. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**I CATCH 'EM, GOD CLEANS 'EM**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**MARIKA**

God of abundance, the land we walk on is holy ground. Send forth Your grace to help us heal the wounds of this world. Open up the soil of our hearts to Your word of life. May we be strengthened by this time together and grow into who You are creating us to be.

**SCRIPTURE**

1 Kings 3:5-14

<sup>5</sup> *ADONAI* appeared to Solomon at Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask whatever you wish, and I'll give it to you."

<sup>6</sup> Solomon responded, “You showed so much kindness to your servant my father David when he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and with a heart true to you. You’ve kept this great loyalty and kindness for him and have now given him a son to sit on his throne. <sup>7</sup> And now, *ADONAI* my God, you have made me, your servant, king in my father David’s place. But I’m young and inexperienced. I know next to nothing. <sup>8</sup> But I’m here, your servant, in the middle of the people you have chosen, a large population that can’t be numbered or counted due to its vast size. <sup>9</sup> Please give your servant a discerning mind in order to govern your people and to distinguish good from evil, because no one is able to govern this important people of yours without your help.”

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the LORD that Solomon had made this request. <sup>11</sup> *ADONAI* said to him, “Because you have asked for this instead of requesting long life, wealth, or victory over your enemies—asking for discernment so as to acquire good judgment— <sup>12</sup> I will now do just what you said. Look, I hereby give you a wise and understanding mind. There has been no one like you before now, nor will there be anyone like you afterward. <sup>13</sup> I now also give you what you didn’t ask for: wealth and fame. There won’t be a king like you as long as you live. <sup>14</sup> And if you walk in my ways and obey my laws and commands, just as your father David did, then I will give you a very long life.”

**MESSAGE**

**“FAITH AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY”**

**SUNNY**

**RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD**

**SARAH**

We believe in the Creator, Father-Mother Spirit,  
who called the world and all that is in it into being;  
who spoke the creative-forming word, and all came forth;  
who created women and men and set them free to live in love and humility  
to the will of supreme love and in community with all.

We believe in the Creator, Son, and Brother,  
who, because of love for all Creation beyond our understanding,  
entered the world to share our humanity;  
to set before us the paths of life and death and walk them with us;  
be rejected and die, but finally, conquer death  
and in new life, draw the world to himself for all time.

We believe in the Creator, in-dwelling Spirit,

who calls us into a community that we may,  
through faith and that community of oneness,  
experience uplifting and sustaining grace;  
that we may fulfill our human responsibility  
to reach out to our neighbor, whomever that may be;  
that we may rejoice in the constant nature of Creation  
and the wondrous joy of life itself.

We believe in the Creator,  
whose word teaches us that all things grow together, the Circle of Life;  
that the paths of life and death, good and evil, too often come together;  
that choices are not clearly defined,  
but that we confidently and responsibly tread the path we choose  
and only the true One can be our judge.

We believe in Creator,  
who is present and working in this world through all Creation.  
A-Ho. Amen

#### **COMMUNITY LIFE**

#### **CLOSING SONG**

#### **OPEN MY EYES**

#### **BENEDICTION**