

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY*  
*Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost*  
*September 22, 2024*  
*10:00 AM*

***PRELUDE:***

**Jack Darnell, Native American Flute**

***WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:***

- *Women's Breakfast at Manny's, Wednesday (9/25) at 9 AM.*
- *Blessing of the Animals Service (9/28) at 10:30 AM.*

## **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** *(INSPIRED BY JAMES 3, MARK 9:33-37):*

ONE: We come here today not because we are clever but because God welcomes slow learners.

**MANY: We come here not because we are wise, but because God loves us in spite of our folly.**

ONE: We come knowing that the greatest persons will be found among those who humbly serve like Jesus did, and that the brightest ideas and the deepest truth will come from those who see themselves as little children in Christ's school.

**MANY: O Lord, open up our mind and our hearts and enable our lives to declare your praise.**

# **HYMN #401:**

*Here in This Place*

**GATHER US IN**

*Here in this place the new light is streaming ; now is the darkness  
Vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken ; gather us in, the  
Blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.*

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who  
Yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history  
Called to be light to the whole human race.**

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in; the  
Proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
Give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the  
Bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.**

**Give us to drink the wine for compassion; give us to eat the  
Bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven,  
Light years away: here in this place the new light is shining;  
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and  
Make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

## **RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**ONE:** The circle of love is repeatedly broken because of the sin of exclusion. We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of misery, the circle of favor and the circle of denial.

**MANY:** **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.**

**ONE:** The circle of love is broken whenever there is hostility, whenever there is misunderstanding, whenever there is insensitivity and a closed heart.

**MANY:** **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.**

ONE: The circle of love is broken whenever we cannot see eye to eye, whenever we cannot link hand to hand, whenever we cannot live heart to heart and affirm our differences.

**MANY: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.**

We pause for a moment of silent personal confession



## **Responsive Assurance of Pardon:**

**ONE:** Through God's grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of the Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad!

**MANY:** **Glory be to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## **HYMN #582:**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*      *GLORY TO GOD*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without  
end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.**

# **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **GOSPEL READING:**

*Mark 9:30-37*

## **EPISTLE READING:**

*James 3:13-4:3,7-8a*

**TRAVELOGUE:**

**The One Who Sent Me**

**Rev. Judith A Dwyer**

## **HYMN #21:**

**Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works**

**LACQUIPARLE**

**Many and great, O God are thy works,  
Maker of earth and sky. Thy hands have  
Set the heavens with stars; thy fingers spread the  
Mountains and plains. Lo, at thy word the  
Waters were formed. Deep seas obey thy voice.**

**Grant unto us communion with thee,  
Thou star abiding One. Come unto  
Us and dwell with us. With thee are found the  
Gifts of life. Bless us with life that  
Has no end, eternal life with thee.**

# THE OFFERING

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# OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Amazing Grace*

*John Newton*

# **DOXOLOGY (#606) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

## **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**



# RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Native American Version):

ONE: From the East, the direction of the rising sun, come wisdom and knowledge. Let us face East (all face East, pause) and let us pray: Enable us, O God, to be wise in our use of the resources of the earth, sharing them in justice, partaking of them in thankfulness. We learn from your creation that life is a sacred circle, of which there is no beginning and no end.

**MANY: We are all related. Lord, hear our prayer.**

ONE: From the South comes guidance, the beginning and end of life. Let us face South (all face South, pause) and let us pray: May we walk good paths, O God, living on this earth as sisters and brothers should, rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together with you renewing the face of the earth.

**MANY: We are all related. Lord hear our prayer.**

ONE: From the West come purifying waters. Let us face West (all face West, pause) and pray that the Holy Spirit of God may again breathe over the waters, making them pure, making them fruitful. We pray that we too may be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth.

**MANY: We are all related. Lord hear our prayer.**

ONE: From the North come purifying winds. O God, you have been called breath and wind of life. Let us face North (all face North, pause). We pray that the air we breathe might be purified so that life in all its fullness can flourish.

**MANY: We are all related. Lord hear our prayer.**

*ONE: Let us all join in the prayer Jesus taught his followers to pray:*

**MANY: O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe, You are our Shepherd Chief in the most high place whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon. Whatever you want done, let it also be done everywhere. Give us your gift of bread day by day. Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Take us away from wrong doings. Free us from all evil. For everything belongs to you. Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen.**

# **HYMN #65:**

**Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

**CWM RHONDDA**

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this  
Barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me  
With thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven  
Feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing  
Stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me  
All my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
Be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordon, bid my anxious  
Fears subside. Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me  
Safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.**

## **BLESSING:**

**“May the warm winds of heaven blow softly upon you and the Creator make sunrise in your hearts.” – Cherokee Prayer**

# **POSTLUDE**

**Jack Darnell, Native American Flute**



## **WORSHIP NOTES:**

Since 1994, Native American Day has appeared on the Presbyterian Calendar as the day to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Native Americans to the life and work of the church. This special day is celebrated in the Presbyterian Church, USA on September 22nd or 23rd (Fall Equinox). It may be celebrated on the Sunday before or after or on another appropriate day. Ironically, Fall Equinox is noted on one or the other date. The Fall Equinox has marked “harvest time” for many Native American tribes for centuries and is a time of celebration and preparation for winter.

The ninety-five Native American congregations and chapels are located on reservations, in rural areas and two urban congregations. There are twenty-one presbyteries and seven synods that have Native American constituents in them. Some of the churches are isolated due to location. A shortage of ordained Native American clergy exists. The churches are dependent upon lay leadership because many cannot meet the presbytery minimum salary necessary to pay a full-time pastor. Most of these congregations are comprised of Native people who earn low incomes so consequently do not have the resources to sustain full-time ordained ministries. The loss of national and mid-governing body mission funding has contributed to an already acute leadership crisis in these churches.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- As of May 2013, there are 566 federally recognized tribes located on reservations, in rural areas on allotment lands and in the cities.
- In the 2010 U.S. Census, for the first time more Native Americans reside in large in cities than on reservations.
- Allotment land: Break up of Indian territories resulted in land being distributed to individuals (180 acres). The “surplus land” was sold by the federal government to non-Native buyers.
- Relocation: A government program that sought to relocate Native people to urban areas of the country in the 1950’s and early 60’s to assist families with employment and education for single adults. Some stayed and others returned to their homeland when the promised jobs never materialized. Often they were given bus fare to the city and a small stipend then were expected to support themselves without training for jobs or preparation to live outside their tribal communities. Many were without skills to obtain jobs.

- As of 2011, there were 460 gambling operations run by 240 tribes. Many of the Pacts which created the gaming operations require tribes to give back to surrounding municipalities a percentage of their earnings annually. Since there are 326 tribes who do not have gaming operations on their reservations, the idea that “all Indian tribes have casinos” is false.
- Connections and partnerships between congregations and these Native American churches around mission projects have been ongoing for several years and mutually beneficial. Groups have worked together in the local community, helped with church building needs and conducted Vacation Bible School. Others have given toward national gatherings for Native American youth, young adults and leadership development opportunities. A better understanding between both cultures has developed as well. Diversity exists in the languages, cultures, and tribal governments but a common history is their faith journey. Native American Presbyterians love to tell the story and welcome opportunities to do so.

Written by Rev. Irvin Porter, Associate Native American Intercultural Congregational Support  
Puyallup, WA. <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/nativeamerican/about-us>