



## “Protecting Mother Earth”

### **LIGHTING THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**MUSIC TO PREPARE US FOR WORSHIP** Sue Koeppe, Musician

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** \*Check in on Facebook and make a witness to your family and friends. Subscribe to our YouTube channel Ottawa First UMC.

\*Thursday will be the day to person your station and grab your hat and gloves for our curbside and delivery Spaghetti Lunch and Supper. There’s still time to sell tickets. And, don’t forget Wednesday night’s final organizational meeting at 6 pm.

\* Not only does the month of May bring May flowers, the month of May brings back Holy Communion like we used to receive Holy Communion. (if you are comfortable, otherwise our Communion cups will be available, too) May 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch will return to indoor dining. And, coffee fellowship returns, too. So, next Sunday there will be better than average donuts downstairs after worship.

**WELCOME** Today we’re observing Native American Awareness Sunday. After Easter, United Methodist’s have a tradition of celebrating the gifts, contributions and ministries of Native Americans to the Church and our society. Native American Awareness Sunday was first celebrated in 1989. To truly celebrate the Sunday, I invited Gerald Savage to be with us today. Gerald is the grandson of Chief Walks with the Wind of Starved Rock, Chief White Winnebago. Gerald was born and raised in the HoChunk ways in the Illinois Valley. Let’s give Gerald a warm Ottawa First welcome. Gerald will deliver today’s message. And, it is with the utmost of respect for our Native American siblings that a special offering will be received

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today. I'll explain the special offering later in the service. Also, there's an insert and a special offering envelope in your bulletin. Before Barb leads us in sharing our gathering words, I'd like us to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the HoChunk Tribe ." Now, would you stand as you are able and we'll begin worship.

†**SHARING OUR GATHERING WORDS** Barb Frey, Liturgist

Creator made all that is and proclaimed that 'it is good.'

**Creator, help us to discover in all You have made in Nature, the good wisdom about the interconnectedness of all things, about balance and about living in harmony.** We are not above nature, we are part of Creation; we live by the same laws as all of nature and need to learn from what God has made.

**Creator, help us discover the power that lies in the wisdom and understanding of our role in the Great Mystery, and in honoring every living thing as a teacher.**

O, Great Creator God,

**may our spirits be in harmony with Yours as we gather in Your worship!**

**OPENING SONG** "For the Beauty of the Earth" #92

**PRAYER INTRO** One of my favorite authors was a Dutch Catholic Priest by the name of Henri Nouwen. Nouwen was a spiritual thinker with an unusual capacity to inspire when he wrote about Jesus' life and God's love. About prayer Nouwen said, "To pray does not mean to think about God in contrast to thinking about other things, nor does it mean spending time with God instead of spending time with other people. As soon as we begin to divide our thoughts into thoughts about God and thoughts about other things, like people and events, we separate God from our daily life. At that point God is allocated to a pious little niche in some corner of our lives where we only think pious thoughts and experience pious feelings. Although it is important and even indispensable for our spiritual lives to set apart time for God and God alone, our prayer can only become unceasing when all our thoughts—beautiful or ugly, high or low, proud or shameful, sorrowful or joyful—can be thought in the presence of the One who dwells in us and surrounds us. By trying to do this, our unceasing thinking is converted into unceasing prayer, moving us from a self-centered monologue to a God-centered dialogue. To do this we want to try to convert our thoughts into conversation. The main question, therefore, is not so much what we think, but to whom we present our thoughts...Let's present our thoughts to God in prayer on this Native American Awareness Sunday.

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER** Lord Jesus Christ, we place you at the center of our thoughts, our lives and this church. From there we turn to the East, from the direction of the rising sun, come wisdom and knowledge. **Let us face East** and pray... Enable us, O God, to be wise in our use of the earth's resources, 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 and "we are all related. Lord, hear our prayer." **Please face center.** From the South comes guidance, the beginning and end of life. **Let us face South and pray:** May we walk good paths, O God, 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. "We are all related. Lord hear our prayer." **Please face center.** From the West come purifying waters. **Let us face West** and pray that God's Holy Spirit may again breathe over the waters making them pure, making them fruitful. We pray that we too may be cleansed and purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. "We are all related. Lord hear our prayer." **Please face center.** From the North come purifying winds. O God, you have been called breath and wind of life. **Let us face North** and pray: May the air we breathe be purified so that the circle of love and life can be repaired. So there are no more separate circles: the inner circle, the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of misery, the circle of favor and the circle of denial. God, forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us. End the hostility, misunderstanding and insensitivities that break the circle of love and life. We return to the center, to you and celebrate our Native American siblings, acknowledging these people as one of many unique voices that make us whole as the body of Christ. We stand with our Native American siblings as they seek to shine light into the world. We are all your children, O God, and even though we stand together today, we have not always stood together. We remember how the building of the land of the free came at a cost to those native to these lands. We admit to creating obstacles for the Native American community to overcome, and we recognize the challenges they still face today. O God, we pray for hope to rise and love to heal. You created us all with our different languages, cultures and customs – all in your image. Now, help us be the church that shines light into any darkness, that loves every neighbor, that joins hands and hearts to bring your kingdom love to earth as it is in heaven like Jesus taught us to pray...praying... 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 trespasses as we forgive

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those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. AMEN

**PRAYING IN SONG** “God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale” #122

**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Barb Frey, Liturgist

Psalms 8 (NIV) LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Job 12: 7-10 (NIV) But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

**MESSAGE** “Protecting Mother Earth” Gerald Savage, Native American from the Ho-Chunk Tribe

I will lead us in praying a Native American version of The Lord’s Prayer. Will you pray with me now? 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

**INVITATION TO GIVE**

We’ve set aside this time to recognize Native peoples’ history, a history marred by colonial violence, land theft, and attempted genocide, a legacy that continues to challenge Native people today. Let’s embrace today’s opportunity as an obligation to honor our Native siblings’ their struggles, perseverance, and achievements. With a repentant heart, let’s walk together creating a shared and

sustainable future. Any donation you give beyond your usual weekly offering will support vital ministries and churches in Native American communities. Your donations allow The UMC to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans, in our area and in our nation. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries. Our donations give a voice to those who have felt voiceless for years. The invitation before us is to give generously to be Christ's love to our Native American siblings on this Native American Ministries Sunday. Special offering envelopes are included in your bulletin. If you're worshipping with us online or you did not come equipped to give a special offering, you can mail your gift to the church, bring it next Sunday or use our secure online Paypal giving option. Be sure to indicate your offering designations. Now, we let's pray to dedicate all the gifts we'll give. Let's thank God for these gift giving opportunities...

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Redeeming God, we live in a world that's far too ready to say you can't be found, a world ready to choose punishment over mercy, judgment over compassion, a world too eager to put energy into exclusion rather than working to be inclusive of all your children. We confess we have been blind, even in our sightedness, to what you are doing in the world. Lord, open our eyes to who you really are. Instead, let us see the good we can do—through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and our witness—to help usher in your kingdom love here and now, to care for your good earth and all its people. Help us be generous in our giving and may our gifts be just the beginning of our availability to be your tools for bringing about the world you desire. We pray it in the name of the risen Christ. Amen

†**CLOSING SONG** “How Great Thou Art” #77

### †**BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH**

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Let's take good care of Mother Earth.

### **MUSIC AFTER WORSHIP**

Sue Koeppe, Musician