

These prayers are being offered to the congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona to honor Indigenous Peoples Day. In 2019 our Diocese took the bold step of acknowledging the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day. The language and prayer style is authentic and reflective of the deep and abiding relationship between God's people on this land and God our Creator. You are invited to use this liturgy in its entirety or to incorporate prayers into your Sunday worship order.

You may also want to include this statement:

Tomorrow much of this country, still after all these years, will celebrate Columbus Day. It is no secret at this point that Columbus Day, 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 diseases 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.

CELEBRANT Christ our true and only Light: receive our prayers and songs, and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no evil desires may possess us who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace. Amen. (source: Gelasian Sacramentary)

Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for the Land

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are upon. We give thanks to _____ (name the traditional people of the Land), 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 gifts of the People of the land. Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts we pray in Your name, Your son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.**

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Gathering 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.

(The Disciples Prayer Book, The Indigenous Theological Training Institute)

Choose one or more of the following Collects

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people,

journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen

(from the Episcopal Church: [Resources on the Doctrine of Discovery](#))

Creator God, from whom every family in heaven and earth takes its name:
Mercifully grant that your people may be strengthened and guided to journey together in partnership, that we may grow into the full stature of Jesus Christ, our light and our life, who lives and reigns with you, in the power of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Creator God, you have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love:
empower us by your Holy Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness; through Jesus Christ our Elder Brother, who is alive and reigns with you and the same Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

Alternate Propers if not the principle service on Sunday.

Isaiah 40:25-31

Psalm 19

Philippians 4:4-9

John 1:1-18

The following Creed was written by a Native American and is shared with you with their permission. You are invited to say and listen to the words as they have been offered.

Native American Creed

I believe in God, Creator of our unique native languages,
Who gifted us this identity as a distinct people through
our native tongues,

so that our native spiritual leaders could relay God's love
to our native people who could not understand
that foreign tongue called English.

I believe in Jesus Christ, our relative,
Who talked of us when he said, "I have other sheep out there,
besides those I have here."

I believe in Jesus Christ who knew the pain of our native
people who were forced from their homeland and had no
place to lay their head.

I believe in Jesus Christ as our Chief Cornerstone as we
begin to build a new generation of native spiritual leaders.

I believe in Jesus Christ who does not say "goodbye"
in any language, but says "I will come again."

I believe in the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire
lighting upon our native people to witness to their people
and to the world, through the native song and dance.

I believe in the Holy Spirit as our guide and the driving force for our native people to do a new thing as we walk a new journey, toward perfection for all humankind.

by the Rev. Roger Scott

An alternative Creed

We believe in the love of God, embodied in the person of Jesus, spread through the cosmos by the Holy Spirit.
(University Episcopal Community at The Univ. of MN)

Prayers of the People

Grandfather we know you hear us when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore, in confidence and trust we pray for the Church:

Specific intercessions offered

Grandmother, enliven the Church for its mission

We are the salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.

Through our humility we reveal Christ in word and action

We pray for the world

Specific intercessions offered

Creator of all, lead us and every people into the ways of justice and peace

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it

So that we might understand how we show honor and respect for You and all that you made.

We pray for those we hold close in our hearts

Specific intercessions offered

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others

That all may act with integrity and courage

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us

We pray for those in need

Specific intercessions offered

God of hope, comfort and restore to wholeness all who suffer in body, mind and spirit.

That balance be restored to all of creation.

We remember those who have died

Specific intercessions offered

Our hearts cry out in pain at their passing

We commend them back to you.

Bring peace to those who mourn

We feel their loss because we are all connected

We pray for ourselves

Specific intercessions offered

Confession: Let us now remember our sins. *Silence*

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.

Celebrant: 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 despair, the circle of privilege and the circle of deprivation.

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

Celebrant: The circle of love is broken whenever there is alienation, whenever there is misunderstanding, whenever there is insensitivity and hardening of the heart.

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

Celebrant: 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.

People: *Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us. Call us to kinship. Mend the hoop of our hearts and let us live in justice and peace, respecting the dignity of every person, tribe, language and nation.*

Celebrant: Creator, you bent the earth like a bow until was one, round, shining planet. At your word the land was drawn into mountains and deserts, forests, and plains; the waters were gathered together into rivers, lakes and seas. The circle of your creation has been broken time and again by greed and violence and many lives have been shattered. Renew the circle of the earth and turn the hearts of all your people to one another; that they and all the earth may live, and be drawn toward you and through the power of your son, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit now and always.

Celebrant: May God, our Creator have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **AMEN.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share with one another a sign of peace.

Prayer before Communion

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.

Celebrant: Creator God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let your hearts sing.

People: **We lift our voices in preparation for this ceremony.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to Creator.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant:

From the place of the rising sun in the East to the South where the warm winds blow, from the West where soft rain comes and to the coldness of the North we unite with all creation from the four directions to join our voices in songs of thanksgiving and praise for the gift your Son, Jesus Christ, our Elder Brother. With hearts lifted, we join with our ancestors who taught us to pray as they have prayed since the beginning of time.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and Earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant continues:

O Great Spirit, Our Creator, you gave us the gift of ceremony, you taught us that everything is sacred and you asked us to walk with you on a path towards peace and love. Just as in generations past, like our grandfathers and grandmothers, we come humbly with arms outstretched to honor you and all that you have created for all of creation. Together with all creation we live, interdependently and marveling that when we do, creation serves as its best reflection of the awesome wonder that you are in our eyes.

You have always cared for us, even when it seemed that there was no way to save our misuse of creation and mistreatment of each other. Many years ago, you came to us as a human being so that we might understand you in a way that would help us find the path you had intended for us.

Our Elder Brother, Jesus, as he was called came into creation in the same way that all humanity is born because people had turned away from you and no longer loved each other, bringing death and destruction to all. Sharing our living and dying, our Elder Brother Jesus opened our eyes and our hearts to understand that we are all relatives and that you, our Creator, are love us all.

Jesus lived in a good way. He rejected no one, fed the hungry, gave water to the thirsty and broke down the barriers that had been erected between race, class and sex. But, he paid a price for his loving ways. When it was his time, he stretched out his arms upon the cross and died. In this sacrifice our Elder Brother Jesus united us in all that is beauty, with all that has been and all that will ever be.

On the night before he died, he gave us another ceremony. He gathered those who had been closest to him for a meal. During the meal our Elder Brother Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper our Elder Brother Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks to you, blessed it, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant of my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

We found it hard to understand these words and actions, but we followed the path celebrating this ceremony from that time until now. Through our experiences then we proclaim this mystery of our faith:

Celebrant and People:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant continues:

In this ceremony that our Elder Brother Jesus gave us, we have experienced a transformation of our spirits. We have been brought into the death of Jesus and raised into his resurrection, and we eat and drink with Him in His new life. We have noticed that when we come together for this ceremony, we all leave nurtured and nourished no matter how lost we feel and no matter how hungry we have been.

We also offer our gifts in return just as our elders and ancestors teach us. It is through this sharing of what we have to give that we have found strength beyond imagining.

Celebrant and People:

So, now once again, we humbly call upon your Spirit, we cry for a vision. Feed us, quench our thirst, make these simple elements from your creation to be Christ’s body and Christ’s blood. We cry for the vision that will help us be your holy people in all that we do, in all that we see, in all that we hear, in all that we breathe and in all that we speak.

Celebrant:

Come Creator Spirit. Come now and be for us the holy food and drink that your people cry out for in this ceremony.

Surrounded now by our ancestor spirits, the spirits of those who have led saintly lives [insert names here], and all your saints and angels, we celebrate with all of creation – the two legged, the four legged, the winged, those that crawl and those that swim, those that give shade and those that offer us pleasing aromas – for together we see the awesome nature of all creation, the need to be one family living in relationship, interdependently and yet as one. May we be this unity and live as relatives to all.

Through Jesus the Christ and with Jesus the Christ and in Jesus the Christ, made possible by your Holy Spirit, we join with you our God and Creator as a community of relatives.

Celebrant and People:

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

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As our Brother Christ has taught us, we now pray,
**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.**

Nez Perce tribe

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Whoever comes to me shall not hunger
People and who ever believes in me shall never thirst.

(Invitation, St. Gregory of Nyssa)

Communion Invitation

This is Christ's table of love and forgiveness. 'The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation' provide food for our souls. All are welcome to draw near and share these holy mysteries. Take Christ within your bodies and become the Body of Christ.

Communion is distributed

Prayer After Communion

CELEBRANT Let us Pray

We thank you Creator God for feeding us, nurturing us and reminding us that you are ever present, our Companion. 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.

or

Jesus Christ, our leader, you are the Son of the Creator. Today we became your children today we became your grandchildren. We will live as you have taught us. We will follow your commandments. Watch over us. Speak to us from the trees, from the grass and herbs, from the breeze, from the passing rain, from the passing thunder and the deep waters. Before us there is beauty, behind us there is beauty. Allow us to walk a long life in happiness completed in beauty. Amen. *(From the Liturgy of St. John's, Red Lake, MN)*

or

Great Creator, you have fed us with bread from heaven. Continue to renew us in your truth, to give light to our minds strength to our bodies, and seal us with your Holy Spirit. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

Blessing

May the Creator bless you and keep you; may the beloved companion face you and have mercy upon you; may the Spirit's countenance be turned to you and give you peace; may the Three in One bless you. **Amen**

or

Send us anywhere you would have us go, only go there with us. Place upon us any burden you desire, only stand by us to sustain us. Break any tie that binds us, except the tie that binds us to you.

And the blessing of God; the Creator, who made and knows us; the Savior, who redeems and befriends us; and the Spirit, who enlightens and sustains us, be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

(Blessing attributed to The Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong)

The Dismissal

Go now into the four Sacred Directions, the east, south, west, and north.

Go into your communities, into unknown lands and places.

Go where God's name is well known and where it has yet to be known.

Go to those who welcome you and those who reject you.

Go and share the Gospel with all who will hear.

People: Thanks be to God.