



"An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love through engaging worship and faithful service"

Kelly Sherman-Conroy

NATIVE THEOLOGIAN



November 21, 2021

*"Beyond Land Acknowledgements:
The Power of Story and Action"*

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

You are invited to greet those around you or sit quietly.

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

“Give Thanks”

*H. Smith
Sharon Neuenfeldt*

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Call to Worship**

Carol Dusbabek

One: The Spirit of God be with you.

All: And also with you. Come let us worship the Creator with hearts open to all peoples, where pride and prejudice once dwelt.

One: Let us worship Creator with minds open to Native peoples, where listening and respect once had no place.

All: Let us honor the One who freely gives by showing honor to those who were once and still remain oppressed.

One: Let us worship the God of diversity, who made the world in colors, in seasons, in endless variety; who created the diversity of Earth's peoples in Creator's image.

All: We were created to honor one another and in so doing, we honor the Creator. Let us honor the Creator today by reflecting in our worship and in life the Creator image—love. Amen

*****Prayer to the Four Directions**

*Kelly Sherman-Conroy,
Native Theologian*

We will turn our bodies to face the Four Directions as we pray.

Facing East as we begin, we will then turn with each prayer, in a clockwise direction.

We will sing verses of our opening hymn throughout the prayer.

Creator, the strength of the people, we honor you.

Listen to the thoughts of your people.

We respect the truth of your spirit world and care for your creations to the east, to the south, to the west and to the north.

We honor you by deeds and not words.

We live by the ways you have entrusted to us, within the circle of life.

Come, Great Spirit, as we gather in your name.

*****Opening Hymn "We Come from North, South, East and West"**

Susan Gilbert Zencka (Dakota)

Vs. 1-2

1. We come from north, south, east and west,
2. North gives us courage, and wisdom each day,
3. And so are we, we're all gifts from God,

we come to sit as one
South gives us strength and youth,
shar - ing the bread of life.

We come to learn, to share, and to serve,
East brings each day, and joy one to us, too;
Dif - ferent we are, but one in our God;

God makes us one, we wor - ship our God.
West takes us deep with - in to our dreams.
And when we're fed, we too go to share.

Car - ing for all, we each find a place:
We need need for these, they're all gifts from God,
We will go out, north, south, east and west,

God's house is our home, too.
giv - en to us for life.
leav - ing to serve God's world.

We face East: To your symbol color gold.

The place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning, there the Seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honor life around them, all who honor life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again. And we pray,

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, come.

We turn to the South: To your symbol color red.

In the South, the place of growing, there is wisdom in the Earth— both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the Earth gives up her lifeblood so her children's hearts may beat, we give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet. And we pray,

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, come.

We turn to the West: To your symbol color black.

The place of seeing, there is born a vision of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed The Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace. And we pray,

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, come.

We turn to the North: To your symbol color white.

We look to God our Creator who cleanses our Earth with snow, wind and rain. To Jesus who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the people. And the Holy Spirit who comes to inspire us. And we pray,

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, come.

Creator, you bent the Earth like a bow until it 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. Many times, when people crossed these seas from other lands, they broke the circle of your creation by their greed and violence and they shattered the lives of others. Creator, renew the circle of the Earth and turn the hearts of all people to one another; that they all the Earth may live and be drawn toward you through the power of your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit in the circle of the Trinity forever One.

Amen.

“We Come from North, South, East and West”

Vs. 3

1. We come from north, south, east and west,
2. North gives us cour - age, and wis - dom each day,
3. And so are we, we're all gifts from God,

5
we come to sit as one
South gives us the strength bread and of youth,
shar - ing the bread of life.

8
We come to learn, to share, and to serve,
East brings each day, and joy to us, too;
Dif - ferent we are, but one in our God;

12
God West makes us one, we wor - ship our God.
West takes us deep with - in to our dreams.
And when we're fed, we too go to share.

16
Car - ing for all, we each find a place:
We need all these, they're all gifts from God,
We will go out, north, south, east and west,

20
God's house is our home, too.
giv - en to us for life.
leav - ing to serve God's world.

***Gathering Prayer

Great Creator, our hearts and bodies are grateful for another day upon your sacred creation. We come before you as people drawn from every tribe, nation, language. Some Indigenous people of this land, some refugees, some immigrants, some pilgrims, all of us as one Body together. We offer our thanksgiving and praise to you, Creator. Together on this journey, we celebrate with our hearts and eyes open to understanding, growing in the sacred wisdom that is shared. For with your Spirit we can face the winds together. Amen.

*****The Peace**

One: As a community, let us embrace the ongoing work of being stewards of all your creation.

**All: We see God around us. Let us claim it.
We see God within us. Let us share it.**

One: If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation. One Body. Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other now (wherever we are) as a sign of God's justice and peace, love, forgiveness and grace.

All: We give thanks to our Creator

One: You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbor.

We greet one another at a safe distance

One: The peace of our Creator with you in all things.

All: And also with you.

A Time with Young People

We invite children forward to the front pews.

Blessing One Another

Children : God be with you

All: And also with you

Children may follow leaders to Children's Activity or remain in worship

Readings

Genesis 1:1-9 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth. But the Earth became chaos and emptiness, and darkness came over the face of the Deep—yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters.

The God said, “Light: Be!” and light was. God saw that light was good, and God separated light from darkness. God called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said, “Now make an expanse between the waters! Separate water from water!” So it was: God made the expanse and separated the water above the expanse from the water below it. God called the expanse “Sky.” Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said, “Waters under the sky: be gathered into one place! Dry ground: appear!” So it was.

Psalm 19: 1-4 ~ *The Inclusive Bible* (*unison*)

**The heavens herald your glory, O God,
and the skies display your handiwork.**

**Day after day they tell their story,
and night after night they reveal
the depth of their understanding.**

**without speech, without words,
without even an audible voice,**

**their cry echoes through all the world,
and their message reaches the ends of the Earth.
For in the heavens the sun has pitched a tent.**

The Gospel Reading

John 1:1-13 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

In the Beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God’s presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity’s light—a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind.

The Word was coming into the world—was in the world—and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will—but born of God.

The Word Now

“Beyond Land Acknowledgments: The Power of Story and Action”

Native Theologian, Kelly Sherman-Conroy

Prayer Hymn

“Wakantanka taku nitawa”

#3

(Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works)

Sung in English

Creation Justice Affirmation

We see Creator God in earth, water, sun, air and everywhere around us. Our eyes rise up to the heavens to hear the glory of God declaring the work of Creator's hands.

Each day Mother Earth speaks through her Creation, each night she shares her wisdom. We know we have more to learn if we open our minds, our hearts, our ears and eyes to this glorious vision that pours out her knowledge.

We know Creator is in all Creation. Through the life of Creation we walk together in all we do. A prayer lived daily, unspoken and respectful, while we harvest, plant, work or play. We believe in Creator, who is present and working in this world through all creation. Amen.

Creator God, Lord of all Nations,

Our past shows us that the freedom and responsibilities we were gifted by you have been abused. Domination has been used rather than being stewards of your sacred Creation. Walls are created to keep others out instead of inns where all are welcome. Help us to trust in our identity as your children. Accept our thanks for all people who show in action that indeed your Creation is sacred. Through Jesus' work of justice and peace, show us how we can be the family of God you created us for. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God:

O Great Spirit, hear us as we cry out to you for peace and justice for the peoples and the land itself. Guide us to a place where sacred water, land and resources are respected and shared by all. As your Word became part of your living creation, teach us to trust in hope that one day soon all may dwell in peace and happiness. May your justice truly course through our lands like an unstoppable flood.

Creator, we give thanks for Grandmother Earth and all her abundant life. She protects us, and nourishes us. Help us to conserve nature and serve all Creation. Continue to reveal yourself through your sacred creation. Shaping ourselves within the warmth of each day and every time we allow new wisdom to guide us and help us grow.

Let us pray (*moment of silence*)

God our Creator, Not long ago, we took for granted that food was produced and shared in local community. Today we live within the consequences of those choices, where Grandmother Earth's nourishment is not available to all.

Great Creator, heal and redeem the wounds of your Creation. We know the food which grows from your Creation is meant for all. Help us find ways to bring nourishment to the people and places that seek it.

Teach us and show us the way.

Creator God of earth, sea, and sky, ignite the sacred fire of your Spirit within us that we may rise up to heal and defend Grandmother Earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the caring of all your Creation.

Just as Jesus breathed the Spirit onto the disciples to birth a new community and new creation, whisper to us each day through your sacred winds to bring inspiration and life, as we are surrounded by the breath of your beautiful Creation.

Teach us and show us the way.

Christ is the way, the truth and the life. Justice embodied His ministry on Earth. He is our peace, who breaks down the walls that divide, and together we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for the wellbeing of all.

From this day on allow the sacredness of your loving act of Creation to open our hearts and minds and to recognize that our relationship with you and land and all that dwell upon it, though we are many parts, we are of One Body.

Teach us and show us the way.

We pause now to add our own prayers, either silently or aloud.

*You are invited to speak a brief prayer for yourself, another, or a part of the world.
Please project your joy or concern so we can hear it.*

One: Creator God, in your love, **All: Hear our prayer.**

Creator, you made the world and declared it to be good: The beauty of the trees, the softness of the air, the fragrance of the grass speaks to us, the summit of the mountains, the thunder of the sky, the rhythm of the lakes speaks to us, the faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning, The dewdrops on the flower speak to us. But above all, our heart soars for you speak to us in your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer these prayers.

Amen.

*****Offering Prayer**

“I tell you the truth, whatever you have done for one of the least of my sisters or brothers, you have done it for me.” Help us, Great Spirit, to see you in the needs that confront us daily. Help us to see you in those who are weak, and lonely, and hungry, and afraid. Reaffirm and restore our identity by bringing us back to the people we were created to be. And as we offer ourselves to the justice of your Creation, bring out the wholeness of the Spirit within us so that those we care for may know the love you give us. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

One: And now we say the Nez Perce version of the Lord’s Prayer:

**All: Oh Great Spirit, 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 be done everywhere.
Give us Your gift of bread day by day.
Forgive 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.**

(Written by Hattie Corbett Enos -Nez Perce Elder)

*****Closing Hymn** Heleluyan (Muskogee Chant)

see page 12

Heleluyan

(Alleluia)

Musical score for Heleluyan (Alleluia) in 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics are: He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan; he - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics are: he - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and accidentals. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: F, Bb, C, F, F, C, F, Bb, F, C, Bb, F.

***Blessing

One: Great Spirit, our Creator God, look upon these faces gathered in Holy community together and send them anywhere you would have them go, so that they may embody the ministry of justice for your Creation through their actions. Walk with them so that they may face the winds of change and walk the good road. Enlighten them. Sustain them. May God our Creator be with you this day and always.

All: Amen.

Postlude

“Our Faith Began with Wind O'er Waves”

Dykes



PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*We give thanks for our offerings of energy, skills and financial resources; all converging to support a bounty of shared ministry in the year ahead.

*For Pat & Nat's daughter-in-law, Jessy, as she heals from surgery.

*For CenterPoint Energy's first responder, Thao, who saved the Dickie/Parsons home from a major threat to their gas line. May all essential workers receive both just wages and gratitude for their skilled labor.

*For Gloria Phillips as she nears the end of her life. Enfold her in your deep peace and love as she transitions.

*For Cindy and John Siegel's daughter Jenna Hirte, who had successful surgery on Monday to put a bone flab back into her skull (removed during tumor removal surgery earlier in the month). We pray for God's healing energy to surround Jenna, husband Kevin and daughter Emily.

*We celebrate birthdays with Matt Buck (14th), Mary Maren Bjork (19th) & Andi Favilla (21st).

And in the wider community...

*May our US military veterans be affirmed for their service to our country – by all of us with whom they cross paths. And may our veterans always find welcoming spaces for processing their experiences.

*As the pandemic rages on (having killed 5.5 million people worldwide thus far, with 9.26 million current cases in this land), may we all do our part to protect one another from the virus. We celebrate access to vaccines for children.



Kelly's Great Grandpa is the second to the right of the man standing

Kelly Sherman-Conroy

We are deeply honored to welcome the Native Theologian, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, a proud member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Kelly serves as minister of social justice and advocacy at Nativity Lutheran Church in Saint Anthony. Her ministry honors her Native American traditions while staying true to Christianity. She wants others to see that faith doesn't have to be a choice between one or the other. "Everybody has a different way of celebrating their relationship with God," she said. "We all walk in our own path."

Following worship, at 11 am, Native Theologian Kelly will reveal the story of the land at People's Church and Park through the lens of Native Spirituality and teach us how we can take actions to begin healing relationship with the land and the People who first called it home.

Stillwater Area Theological Discussion Group
Topical discussions among people of all faiths & spiritual paths
(Bi-monthly Dec., Feb., April, June | 6:30-8 pm)

Dec 2nd | John Emery, Islamic Resource Group in MN
“My Experience with Muslim tradition and the realities of the Muslim experience in MN”



John Emery served nine years in the US Army as a translator for the Arabic language. He served across the United States, North Africa, the Persian Gulf, and other locales.

After his honorable discharge in 2003, John returned to Minnesota and graduated with a degree in Global Studies. Since his conversion to Islam in 2004, John has engaged in efforts to promote interfaith understanding and cooperation. John volunteers for Gemali Project in Minneapolis, at jails across Minnesota, on the advisory board for the Global Alliance of Muslims for Equality, and on the board of Minnesota Multifaith Network. John is the executive director of Islamic Resource Group.

Co-hosted by People's Congregational Church, Adult Faith Formation Team

Please find the zoom link on our website:
peoplescongregational.org

Volunteer Sign-Up

We have a sign-up clipboard on a table in the Narthex (moved the Fellowship Hall after worship). Please sign up for a date to serve as lay reader, one of two greeters, after-worship fellowship host, or service recorder.

Name Tags

Please grab your name tag in the Narthex before the worship service. When you depart, drop it in a basket by the front door or in the Fellowship Hall.



Thanksgiving Week (next week's) Schedule

Nov. 23 | Regular office hours 9 am - 4 pm
Tai Chi Chih w/ Mary Ann 10 am
Midweek will go out on Tuesday not Wednesday
(items due Monday to Kimberly)
Community Worship Service with Bethlehem
Lutheran Church @ BLC 7 pm.

Nov. 24 | Regular office hours 9 am - 4 pm

Nov. 25 | Office Closed

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Kelly Sherman-Conroy (Native Theologian, guest speaker), Music Dir. Michael Bjork, Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt, Carol Dusbabek (liturgist), Children's Activity leaders & assistants, Lori Mildon & Sharon Binger (greeters), Jenni Shaller, Mary Maren Bjork & Lori Mildon (Antiracism Collective-organizers) and Michael Bjork & Matt Wulff (recorder).



People's Congregational Church

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