

Hail to the Sunrise
Charlemont, Massachusetts

Indigenous Peoples' Sunday

St. Brendan the Navigator
October 11, 2020

The Rev. Lev Sherman, preaching
Connie Mayo, Music Director

Prelude: *Heleluyan* Muscogee (Creek) Indian

Call to Worship
Leader: The Spirit of God be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God with hearts open to all peoples,
where pride and prejudice once dwelt;
Congregation: **Let us worship God with minds open to the wisdom of Native peoples.**
Leader: Let us honor God who freely gives by showing honor to those who became and still remain oppressed.
Congregation: **Let us worship God who made the world in colors, in seasons, in endless variety; who created the diversity of the earth's peoples in His image.**
(Adapted from UMC Native American Ministries Sunday's Call to Worship)

ELW 837: *Many and Great, O God* (Wakantanka taku nitawa) (*see back of bulletin)*

Dakota Tune arr. © Augsburg Publishing House
text: Joseph R. Renville

Poem: *An American Sunrise* Joy Harjo, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation

Confession

Leader: On this Indigenous Day of Prayer, we acknowledge the great injustices perpetrated against those who lived on and cared for this land long before our ancestors arrived.
Let us open our hearts:

pause

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.
Congregation: **We are all gathered within the sacred circle of your community. Guide us through your wisdom to restore the truth of our heritage.**

Leader: Help us to confront the racism that divides us as we confess the pain it has caused to the human family.
Congregation: **Call us to kinship. Mend the hoop of our hearts and let us live in justice and peace. Amen.**

(from the Episcopal Church: Resources on the Doctrine of Discovery, adapted)

Smudging Ceremony

(The smudging ceremony is likened to a prayer of confession, as we purify our minds and hearts. We reach out and draw in the smoke to our eyes, ears, mouth, head and heart to cleanse us from what is negative.)

First Lesson: Isaiah 40: 25-31

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.
Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"?
Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Poem: *Bless this Land* Joy Harjo, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation

Second Lesson: John 17: 20-23
Reader: The Gospel according to John.
Congregation: **Glory to you, O Christ.**
"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon The Rev. Lev Sherman

Creed Statement

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
in obedience to the will of supreme love and in community with all.

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

We believe in the Creator, In-Dwelling Spirit, who invites us into community, so that
we may through faith experience uplifting and sustaining grace;
we may fulfill our human responsibility to reach out to our neighbor;
we may rejoice in the wondrous joy of life itself.

We believe in the Creator who is present and working in this world through all creation. Amen.

(adopted from Lutheran Church of the Wilderness Liturgy, Bowler WI, Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation)

The Peace

As a community let us embrace the ongoing work of reconciliation.
God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.
God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

Let us make reconciliation visible by greeting each other as a sign of God's peace, love, forgiveness and grace.
The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.
We give thanks to our Creator.

You are invited to share peace and reconciliation with your neighbor.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Oh Great Spirit,
You are our 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.

(Adopted from prayer written by Hattie Corbett Enos -Nez Perce Elder)

Leader: Let us pray *(moment of silence)*

O God of mercy, we lament that even good actions of reform and renewal had often unintended negative consequences.
Congregation: **We bring before you the burdens of the guilt of the past when our forbearers did not follow your will that all be one in the truth of the gospel.**
Teach us and show us the way.

Leader: We confess our own ways of thinking and acting that perpetuate the divisions of the past. As communities and as individuals, we build many walls around us: mental, spiritual, physical and political walls that result in discrimination and violence. Forgive us, Lord.
Teach us and show us the way.

Congregation: **Christ is the way, the truth and the life. He is our peace, who breaks down the walls that divide, who gives us, through the Holy Spirit, ever-new beginnings.**
Teach us and show us the way.

Leader: In Christ, we receive forgiveness and reconciliation and we are strengthened for a faithful and common witness in our time.
Teach us and show us the way.

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

People are invited to add their own prayers

Congregation: **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.

(Adapted from Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation Liturgy, Oct. 31, 2016)

Blessing

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 word of reconciliation 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.

Congregation: **Amen.**

(Kelly Sherman-Conroy, Oglala Sioux)

Sending Hymn UMH 330: *Great Spirit Now I Pray (in back of bulletin)*

Postlude: *Heleluyan* Muscogee (Creek) Indian

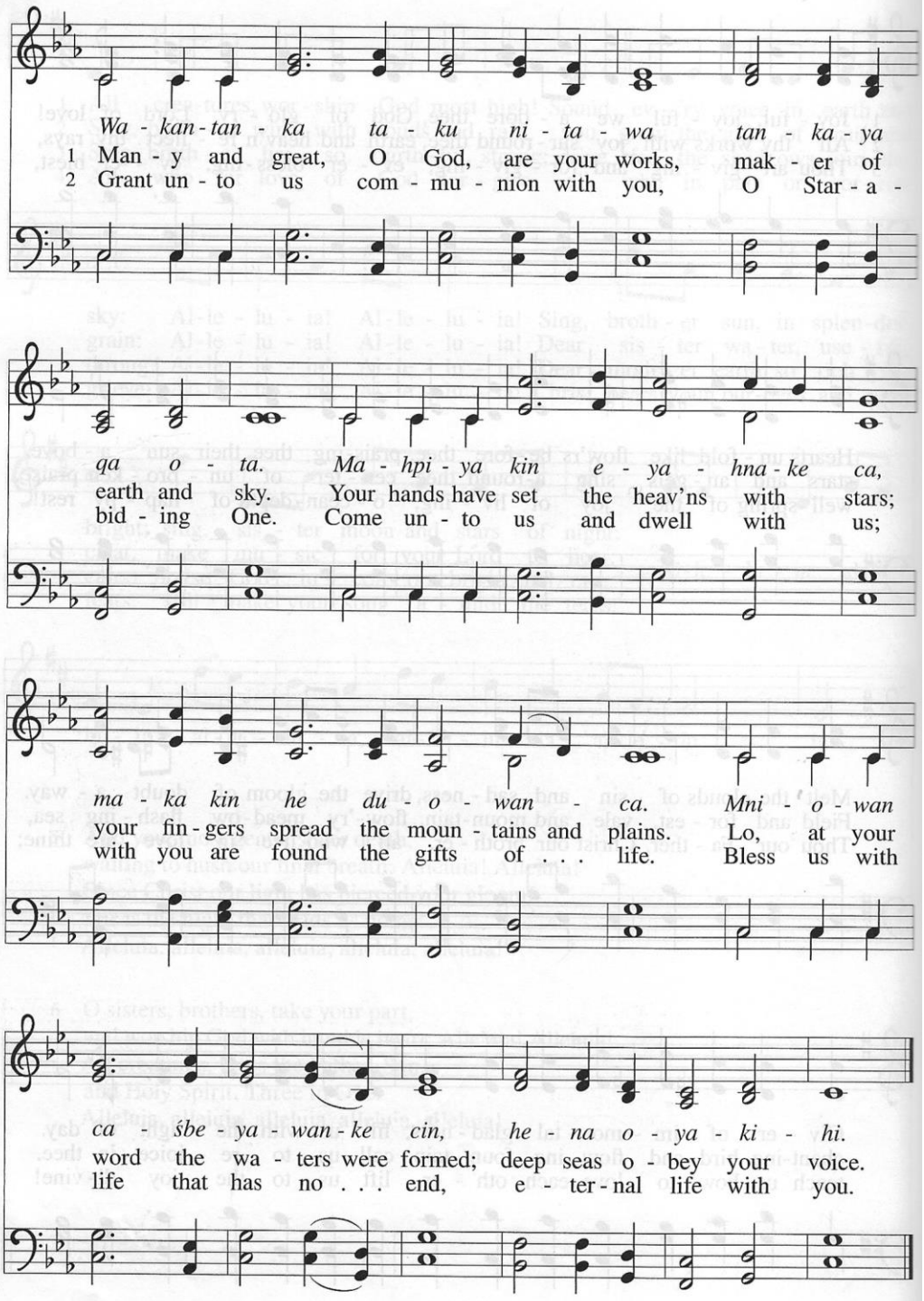
Announcements

Dismissal

You are invited to stay for Virtual Coffee Hour

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837 Many and Great, O God
Wakantanka taku nitawa

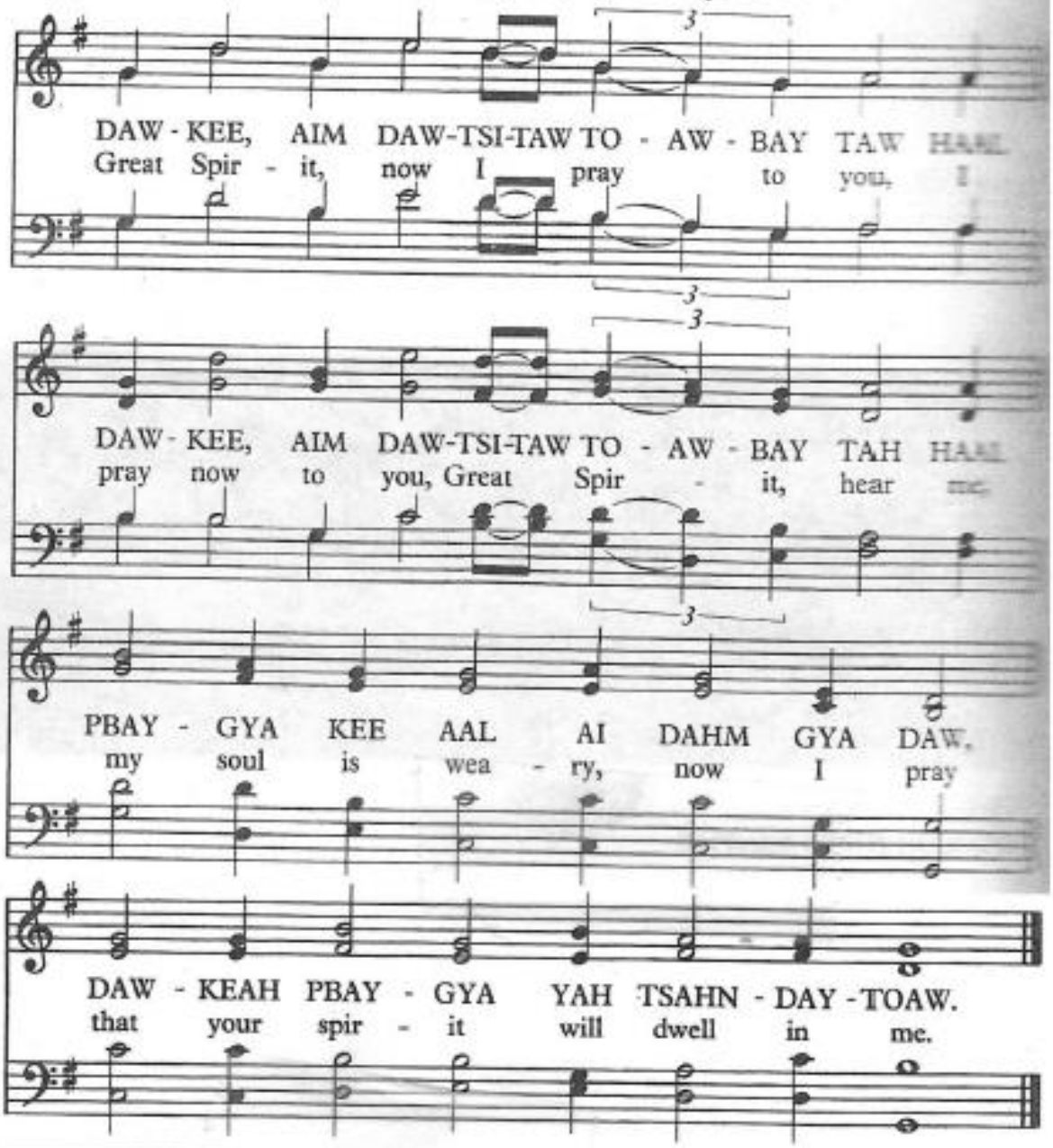


Text: Joseph R. Renville, 1779–1846; para. Philip Frazier, 1892–1964, alt.
Music: Dakota tune; arr. *Songs of the People*, 1986
Arr. © 1986 Augsburg Publishing House

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330 Daw-Kee, Aim Daw-Tsi-Taw

(Great Spirit, Now I Pray)



WORDS: Kiowa prayer; para. by Libby Littlechief, 1981
MUSIC: Native American melody; arr. by Charles Boynton, 1981

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