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Northeastern Ohio Synod

HONORING THE LAND

A Guide to Creating Land
Acknowledgments for
Congregations in the Northeastern
Ohio Synod



INTRODUCTION

In recent years, many communities and institutions have started incorporating land acknowledgments into their practices to honor the Indigenous peoples who were the original stewards of the land. A land acknowledgment is a meaningful and reflective statement that pays tribute to the history and presence of Indigenous nations, highlights the impact of colonization, and invites us to contemplate our relationship with the land and its original caretakers.

PURPOSE

For congregations within the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), creating and sharing a land acknowledgment is a significant act of recognition and solidarity. It aligns with the ELCA's ongoing mission to pursue justice, promote reconciliation, and care for God's creation. By acknowledging the Indigenous peoples who lived on and tended to the land long before European settlers arrived, we affirm our commitment to justice and healing, honoring the biblical call to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

This guide aims to assist ELCA congregations in Northeastern Ohio in developing meaningful and respectful land acknowledgments. It seeks to educate congregations about the Indigenous history of the region, offer theological foundations for this practice, and provide practical steps to weave land acknowledgments into worship and congregational life.

A land acknowledgment is more than just historical recognition; it is a spiritual practice that invites deeper reflection on our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation and as neighbors in a just and equitable society. As Lutherans, we are called to live out our faith through active engagement in healing divisions, restoring relationships, and repairing the harm caused by centuries of colonization and displacement of Indigenous peoples.

This resource serves congregations interested in making land acknowledgments part of their ongoing commitment to justice. Through prayerful reflection and careful research, each congregation can craft an acknowledgment that respects the Indigenous peoples connected to their specific region and encourages ongoing learning and action.

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Micah 6:8

(New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Land acknowledgments are crucial as they compel us to face the painful legacies of colonization that have shaped our present world. In the United States, Indigenous peoples endured forced removal from their ancestral lands, along with the suppression of their cultures, languages, and ways of life. While these acknowledgments cannot change history, they serve as a critical starting point for awareness and reflection, reminding us that the lands we occupy were not "discovered" but long inhabited and cared for by Indigenous nations.

Connection to Christian Faith

For Christian communities, land acknowledgments are intricately tied to the biblical call for justice. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, scripture articulates God's concern for the marginalized and oppressed. Jesus's teachings, including the parable of the Good Samaritan (*Luke 10:25-37*), urge us to love our neighbors, recognizing that our neighbors include those pushed to society's margins.

Commitment to Justice

Incorporating a land acknowledgment into congregational life is a powerful demonstration of our faith commitment to pursue justice. It is a concrete expression of our pledge to listen, learn, and act in ways that honor Indigenous peoples, and advocate for their rights and dignity. This practice aligns with the ELCA's efforts to tackle racial justice, address systemic inequalities, and renounce harmful doctrines like the Doctrine of Discovery, historically used to justify Indigenous land colonization.

By embracing land acknowledgments, congregations affirm their dedication to living in harmony with biblical teachings on justice, fostering an environment of respect and advocacy for Indigenous communities.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" 27 He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:25-37

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ALIGNING WITH THE ELCA’S MISSION OF JUSTICE, RECONCILIATION, AND STEWARDSHIP

The ELCA is deeply committed to justice and reconciliation. Through its social statements, actions, and public witness, the church consistently addresses injustices affecting marginalized communities, including Indigenous peoples. A significant milestone was the church's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery in 2016, an important acknowledgment of the detrimental impacts of colonization on Indigenous nations and a reaffirmation of the church’s dedication to justice for Native communities.

Importance of Land Acknowledgments

Land acknowledgments are a natural extension of the ELCA’s mission of justice. They encourage congregations to contemplate their relationships with the land and the people who have inhabited it for generations. Beyond mere words, they represent a pivotal step toward healing fractured relationships caused by historical injustices.

Stewardship and Sacred Responsibility

Land acknowledgments resonate with the church’s call to stewardship. As Christians, we are tasked with caring for God’s creation, recognizing the land as a sacred gift entrusted to us. Indigenous peoples have long understood the deep bond between humanity and the earth, and their stewardship practices reflect a profound respect for the land’s sacredness. By recognizing Indigenous stewardship, congregations can enhance their understanding of being faithful caretakers of creation.

Path to Reconciliation

Land acknowledgments also beckon us toward reconciliation—not only with Indigenous communities but also with the land itself. As people of faith, we are encouraged to restore what is broken, mend relationships, and pursue justice for all. This involves listening to and learning from Indigenous voices, forming partnerships with Indigenous-led organizations, and advocating for policies that promote justice for Native peoples.

Incorporating these commitments into congregational practices aligns with the broader ELCA mission, fostering a journey of justice, stewardship, and reconciliation.



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UNDERSTANDING LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: THEIR PURPOSE AND IMPORTANCE

A land acknowledgment extends beyond mere words; it embodies several vital purposes essential to fostering justice and reconciliation within religious and broader community contexts.

Key Purposes of Land Acknowledgments

- **Recognition:** Honors the Indigenous peoples who originally inhabited and took care of the land, acknowledging their deep-rooted relationship with it long before European settlers arrived.
- **Education:** Encourages reflection on the lasting impacts of colonization and highlights the ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous communities, promoting awareness and understanding.
- **Commitment:** Represents a dedication to reconciliation and justice, reinforcing efforts to establish right relationships with Indigenous peoples.
- **Theological Reflection:** In a church setting, it reinforces the faith's calling towards justice, stewardship, and love for all, deeply interwoven with spiritual teachings.

ELCA's Commitment to Justice

The ELCA has officially repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery and pledged to pursue racial justice. This commitment includes recognizing the historical and ongoing harm inflicted upon Indigenous populations through colonization.

Defining a Land Acknowledgment

A land acknowledgment is a formal and respectful statement that recognizes Indigenous peoples as original stewards of the land and highlights the ongoing relationship they have with their traditional territories.

Historical and Cultural Significance

Land acknowledgments serve as pivotal reminders of the painful history of colonization, the enduring marginalization of Indigenous cultures, and emphasize the necessity for continuous dialogue and healing-focused discourse.

Importance for Congregations

For congregations, engaging in land acknowledgments aligns with biblical mandates of justice and healing. This practice resonates with scriptures such as:

<p><i>But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.</i></p> <p>Amos 5:24 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)</p>	<p><i>He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?</i></p> <p>Micah 6:8 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)</p>
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This emphasizes the relentless pursuit of justice by underscoring key religious principles of justice, mercy, and humility. It reflects the call found in the Bible to let justice flow abundantly like water and maintain righteousness consistently, as highlighted in *Amos 5:24*. Additionally, *Micah 6:8* reminds us of God's requirements: to act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with God, guiding us in our spiritual and moral commitments.

Theological Reflections Rooted in Justice, Healing, and Community

Incorporating land acknowledgments into church practices expresses a commitment to justice and community healing. By acknowledging historical and ongoing relationships with Indigenous peoples, congregations can meaningfully advance reconciliation and embody principles of love and service.

A land acknowledgment is dynamic, evolving as relationships with Indigenous communities deepen. It is a sustained commitment to education, relationship-building, and advancing healing and reconciliation alongside Indigenous peoples.

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INDIGENOUS TRIBES OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Understanding the history and culture of the Indigenous tribes in Northeastern Ohio is crucial for crafting meaningful land acknowledgments. This region has been home to a rich tapestry of Indigenous nations, including but not limited to:

- Shawnee
- Lenape (Delaware)
- Miami
- Wyandot
- Ottawa
- Seneca-Cayuga
- Erie (Cat Nation)
- Mingo (Seneca of the Ohio Valley)

These communities possess vibrant cultural heritages, with traditions and histories that have significantly informed and shaped the land's narratives.

Impact of Colonization

The effects of colonization on these Indigenous communities have been profound, involving extensive displacements and enforced removals that starkly changed their lives and connections to ancestral lands. A pivotal policy was the U.S. government's *Indian Removal Act*, which enforced the relocation of many Indigenous peoples from their native territories, leading to long-lasting trauma and loss.

Such historical injustices continue to influence the current challenges Indigenous peoples face, including ongoing displacement, cultural erasure, and discrimination. Nevertheless, Indigenous communities continue to assert and maintain their cultural identities, advocate for their rights, and contribute richly to broader society.

Current Realities and Resilience

Despite the adversities wrought by colonization and removal, Indigenous peoples in Northeastern Ohio and beyond display remarkable resilience. Their steadfast efforts to preserve cultural traditions, revitalize languages, and reclaim their histories honor their ancestors while empowering future generations.

By acknowledging these histories and the enduring strength of Indigenous communities, we can initiate informed steps towards creating more just and equitable relationships. This chapter underscores the necessity of incorporating comprehensive historical understanding into land acknowledgments, ensuring these actions reflect a genuine promise of justice and reconciliation.

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CRAFTING A THOUGHTFUL LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A well-crafted land acknowledgment is a profound expression that is clear, concise, and deeply rooted in respect. It is a symbolic yet meaningful gesture, recognizing the original stewards of the land and demonstrating a commitment to ongoing justice and reconciliation efforts.

Recommended Structure for a Land Acknowledgment

A. Begin by Naming the Indigenous Nations

Start by acknowledging the specific Indigenous peoples historically and currently connected to the land where your congregation is located. In Northeastern Ohio, this includes but is not limited to the:

- Shawnee
- Lenape (Delaware)
- Miami
- Wyandot
- Ottawa
- Seneca-Cayuga
- Erie

Naming these nations is a crucial step in honoring their enduring existence and connection to the land.

B. Acknowledge the Impact of Colonization

Briefly address the history of displacement and colonization that has affected these communities. This acknowledgment highlights the importance and necessity of land acknowledgments.

C. Honor Their Continued Presence

Emphasize that Indigenous peoples are dynamic communities with rich cultural heritage and ongoing contributions to society. Recognizing their continued presence affirms their role as living communities.

D. Commit to Justice and Reconciliation

Conclude by highlighting a commitment to learning, advocacy, and support for Indigenous peoples. This elevates the acknowledgment from mere words to tangible actions.

Sample Land Acknowledgment

"As we gather today, we acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands of the Shawnee, Lenape (Delaware), Miami, Wyandot, Ottawa, Seneca-Cayuga, Erie, and Mingo peoples, among others. These nations were the original stewards of this land long before European settlers arrived, and we honor their deep connection to this region. We recognize the painful history of forced removal and displacement of Indigenous communities due to colonization and acknowledge the ongoing impact of these injustices. Today, we commit ourselves to learning from, standing with, and advocating for Indigenous peoples. We seek to walk in the way of justice, reconciliation, and respect, as we honor the past, recognize the present, and work toward a more equitable future."

Steps to Creating an Effective Land Acknowledgment

1. **Recognizing the Indigenous Nations Connected to the Land:** Identify and name the Indigenous communities in your area.
2. **Including the Historical Context of Colonization and Displacement:** Address the histories of colonization and their lasting impacts.
3. **Honoring the Continued Presence and Contributions of Indigenous Peoples:** Highlight the ongoing contributions and roles of Indigenous communities.
4. **Making a Commitment to Justice, Education, and Reconciliation:** Declare a dedication to ongoing education, action, and support for Indigenous causes.

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INCORPORATING LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS INTO CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

A land acknowledgment should be a continuous and meaningful practice that is seamlessly woven into the fabric of congregational life. By incorporating it into various church activities, congregations can continually remind and educate their members about the land's history and its Indigenous peoples.

Where and How to Use the Land Acknowledgment

During Worship:

- **Beginning of Worship Services:** Start with a land acknowledgment to set a respectful tone, recognizing the Indigenous peoples who have historically cared for the land.
- **Special Celebrations:** Incorporate the acknowledgment during special occasions and events to emphasize its importance.
- **Prayers of Confession and Intercession:** Utilize these moments for reflection, underscoring the link between faith and social justice.

Church Meetings and Events:

- **Council Meetings:** Open these sessions with the acknowledgment to reinforce the congregation's commitment to justice.
- **Congregational Gatherings:** Employ this practice at large gatherings to promote awareness and responsibility.
- **Educational Forums:** Use the acknowledgment to frame discussions within a historical context, fostering a deeper understanding of Indigenous histories.

Printed Materials:

- **Church Bulletins and Newsletters:** Feature the acknowledgment regularly to keep it prominent in congregational life.
- **Website:** Showcase the acknowledgment on your website as evidence of your continuing commitment to justice and reconciliation.

Practical Guidance for Integration

To effectively incorporate land acknowledgments into congregational activities, consider the following strategies:

- Develop a clear and consistent statement suitable for various contexts.
- Educate the congregation about the acknowledgment's importance and significance.
- Offer context and resources for deeper engagement with Indigenous issues.

Building a Path Forward

Incorporating the land acknowledgment across different facets of congregational life can foster an inclusive atmosphere, heighten awareness, and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to advocacy and justice for Indigenous communities. By doing so, congregations can not only honor the past but also actively participate in creating a more equitable and respectful future. Each step taken towards integrating these practices helps to deepen the congregation's connection to the land and its original stewards, building a stronger and more empathetic community.

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MOVING BEYOND WORDS: ACTIONS TOWARD JUSTICE

A land acknowledgment is an important initial step, but achieving true justice and reconciliation requires ongoing commitment and action. This chapter outlines how your congregation can expand its efforts beyond acknowledgment into meaningful advocacy and support for Indigenous communities.

From Acknowledgment to Advocacy: Concrete Steps

1. Educational Programs

- **Host Forums and Book Studies:** Organize events and sessions focused on Indigenous history, culture, and contemporary issues. These can vary from one-time discussions to ongoing educational series.
- **Utilize Recommended Resources:** Use materials such as *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and the ELCA's Doctrine of Discovery materials to guide educational initiatives.

2. Advocacy and Support

- **Support Indigenous-led Organizations:** Engage with organizations dedicated to preserving culture, educating, and advocating for Indigenous rights.
- **Fundraising and Volunteering:** Mobilize funds or offer volunteer support to groups like the First Nations Development Institute or the American Indian College Fund, committed to Indigenous empowerment.

3. Building Relationships

- **Connect Locally:** Reach out to local Indigenous leaders or organizations to build relationships grounded in mutual respect and understanding.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Involve your congregation in community projects that benefit both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- **Incorporate Indigenous Voices:** Invite Indigenous speakers to share their experiences and wisdom during learning sessions or worship services.



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MOVING BEYOND WORDS: ACTIONS TOWARD JUSTICE

Resources for Learning and Advocacy

To assist your congregation in its efforts to support Indigenous education, justice, and cultural preservation, consider the following concrete resources and ideas:

- **Books and Literature:**
 - ***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*** by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz: This book offers a comprehensive overview of Indigenous history and is a valuable resource for understanding past and present challenges faced by Indigenous communities.
 - ***Braiding Sweetgrass*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer: Combining Indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge, this book provides insights into environmental stewardship and interconnectedness.
- **Online Tools and Courses:**
 - [Native Knowledge 360° \(NK360°\)](#): Offered by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, this resource provides educational materials and resources on Native American history and cultures.
 - [The Indigenous Canada Course by the University of Alberta](#): A free online course that covers the historical and contemporary experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada, available on platforms like [Coursera](#).
- **Organizations and Partnerships:**
 - [First Nations Development Institute](#): Engage with this organization to support economic development projects geared toward Indigenous communities.
 - [American Indian College Fund](#): Partner with this organization to offer scholarships and provide education-related support for Indigenous students.
 - **Local Indigenous Councils or Tribes**: Contact these groups, such as the [Lake Erie Native American Council](#), to form partnerships and collaborate on community projects and events.
- **Workshops and Speaking Engagements:**
 - Invite Indigenous speakers to lead workshops or give talks about their history, culture, and current issues, fostering dialogue and learning within your congregation.
- **Community Projects:**
 - **Organize and Participate in Cultural Events**: Host or attend events that celebrate Indigenous culture and history, such as film screenings, art exhibits, or traditional music performances.
 - **Support Indigenous Artisans and Businesses**: Encourage the congregation to purchase goods from Indigenous makers, supporting economic development and cultural preservation.

Embracing Ongoing Commitment

Integrating these steps into the fabric of your congregational life not only honors Indigenous histories and contributions but also actively contributes to building a more equitable future. Transitioning from acknowledgment to active support is crucial in realizing true justice and reconciliation, fundamentally supporting the moral mission of any faith community.

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: CONTINUING THE JOURNEY OF LEARNING

A land acknowledgment serves as the foundational step in a longer journey toward understanding, advocacy, and justice. While it is crucial, the path to true reconciliation requires continuous learning, relationship-building, and active support for Indigenous peoples.

Continuing the Work of Justice and Healing

Reflect on the importance of land acknowledgments as gateways to deeper engagement with Indigenous issues. Understand that reconciliation is not a finite objective but an ongoing journey requiring your congregation's commitment to supporting Indigenous rights and advocating for systemic change.

Long-term Engagement Strategies

1. Educational Commitment:

- **Ongoing Learning:** Encourage your congregation to thoroughly explore Indigenous histories and contemporary issues through various educational programs and resources.
- **Reflection and Discussion:** Facilitate regular opportunities for reflection and dialogue about the significance of land acknowledgments and their role in justice and reconciliation.

2. Building Relationships:

- **Connect with Indigenous Communities:** Build meaningful relationships with local Indigenous leaders and organizations to understand their needs, aspirations, and contributions.
- **Celebrate Indigenous Cultures:** Acknowledge and celebrate Indigenous cultural events and achievements within your community to foster a shared sense of respect and understanding.

3. Advocacy for Systemic Change:

- **Promote Indigenous Rights:** Participate in advocacy efforts that support Indigenous rights and sovereignty, influencing policy and public opinion positively.
- **Collaboration on Community Initiatives:** Partner with Indigenous groups on projects that bring tangible benefits and promote mutual respect and recognition.

Resources for Continued Learning

Support your congregation's ongoing journey of justice and reconciliation with these resources:

- **Native Land Digital:** Use [Native Land Digital](#) to learn about the Indigenous nations connected to your area, enhancing geographical and cultural understanding.
- **National Congress of American Indians:** Access resources from the [NCAI](#) to engage with advocacy on critical issues affecting Indigenous communities, gaining deeper insights into national efforts for Indigenous rights.
- **ELCA Racial Justice Resources:** Utilize [ELCA Racial Justice](#) resources, which offer initiatives focused on racial justice, including Indigenous concerns and needs.

Reflection Questions

Deepen your congregation's engagement with reconciliation and justice by considering these reflection questions:

1. **What does reconciliation mean in the context of our congregation, and how can we embody it within our community actions and relationships?**
2. **How can we ensure our land acknowledgment translates into tangible actions supporting Indigenous communities?**
3. **In what ways can ongoing education about Indigenous cultures and histories be integrated into our congregational activities?**
4. **How can our congregation become a proactive ally in advocating for Indigenous rights and justice at local and broader levels?**

Remember, this journey is ongoing and evolving. You are invited to continually reflect, learn, and act in solidarity with Indigenous peoples, making a significant impact in the pursuit of justice and healing.

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CONCLUSION: REFLECTION AND COMMITMENT

For ELCA congregations in the Northeastern Ohio Synod, embracing a land acknowledgment is an essential step in recognizing the deep Indigenous history of the region and aligning with the church's broader mission of justice and reconciliation. This practice honors the original stewards of the land while supporting an ongoing journey to heal and uplift these communities.

Reflecting on Commitment

By adopting a land acknowledgment, congregations pledge to:

- **Recognize and Educate:** Continuously educate themselves and their members about Indigenous histories and cultures that are crucial for understanding and respecting the region's legacy.
- **Build Meaningful Relationships:** Establish and nurture respectful relationships with Indigenous communities, working towards common goals of justice and healing.
- **Engage in Action:** Move from acknowledgment to meaningful action, supporting Indigenous communities in their current challenges and celebrating their rich cultural heritage.

Fulfillment of Faith

Through the practice of land acknowledgment and subsequent actions, congregations embody their faith by living out biblical teachings such as seeking justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God, as highlighted in Micah 6:8. This holistic approach deepens the spiritual commitment of the community while fostering a future based on mutual care, healing, and justice.

By integrating land acknowledgments into their faith practices, congregations reaffirm their dedication to fairness, reconciliation, and shared humanity, working towards a world where all communities are valued and supported. This ongoing journey reflects a shared commitment to living in accordance with God's call for justice and mercy.

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness*
AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?

Micah 6:8

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SAMPLE PRAYERS AND LITURGIES

Prayers and Blessings

Prayer for Justice and Reconciliation: To acknowledge the land and seek guidance in building just and reconciliatory relationships.

O God of justice and peace, we acknowledge the land on which we gather as ancestral home to [specific Indigenous group]. Fill our hearts with understanding and respect as we reflect on the history and stewardship of this land and its people. Guide us in building relationships rooted in justice and reconciliation. Amen.

Blessing of the Land: To honor the sacredness of the land and its Indigenous caretakers.

Blessed Creator, we give thanks for the land that sustains us, and for the Indigenous caretakers who have nurtured it for generations. May we walk humbly upon this earth, honoring its sacredness and working towards its healing. Bless this land and all who dwell upon it. Amen.

Liturgical Call to Action: To inspire congregational commitment to justice and reconciliation.

As followers of Christ, we are called to act justly and seek reconciliation. Let us commit to listening to Indigenous voices and advocating for their rights. May our worship inspire us to be instruments of peace and restoration in this world. Amen.

Special Services

Indigenous Peoples’ Day Service: Celebrate Indigenous cultures, history, and contributions.

- Elements:
 - Speakers: Invite Indigenous voices to share stories and lead discussions.
 - Music & Rituals: Incorporate traditional music and rituals to honor Indigenous heritage.

Service of Repentance and Healing: Acknowledge past wrongs and seek collective healing.

- Elements:
 - Confession: Include a communal act of confession.
 - Commitment: Renew commitments to justice and partnership.
 - Silence: Observe a moment of silence for reflection

Seasonal Observances: Celebrate the connection between Indigenous peoples and the land during key seasonal events.

- Elements:
 - Themes: Align with harvest festivals or planting seasons.
 - Prayers & Hymns: Focus on gratitude for creation and stewardship.

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