

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 a.m. Sunday 18 April 2021

Third Sunday of Easter/Native American Ministries Sunday

(2)

ENTRANCE

Lighting of candles and prelude

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

"An Act of Congregational Centering"**:

Before the prayer, determine the four points of the compass: North, East, South, and West. Then all persons present form a circle, facing the center.

After a period of silence, the prayer begins:

Paul reminds us that Christ is the center of creation, of our lives, and of the world.

We seek the wisdom of directions.

From each direction we return to the center reminded that Christ brings healing and salvation and by God's Spirit renews the face of the earth.

Let us be silent as we face our center point.

Let us face East. *All persons face East.*

From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we glean wisdom and knowledge through desert silences and humble service.

Enable us, O God, to be wise in our actions and in our use of the resources of the earth, sharing them in justice, partaking of them in gratitude.

All persons return facing center.

Let us face South. *All persons face South*

From the South come guidance and the beginning and end of life.
May we walk good paths, O God, living on the earth as sisters and brothers should,

rejoicing in one another's blessing, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together look to you, seeking the new heaven and earth.

All persons return facing center

Let us face West. *All persons face West.*

From the West come purifying waters.

We pray that water might be pure and available to all, and that we, too, may be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth.

All persons return facing center.

Let us face north. *All persons face North.*

From the North come strong winds and gentle breezes.

May the air we breathe be purified and may our lives feel that breath of the Spirit, strengthening and encouraging.

All persons return facing center.

If we walked a path in each direction, the sacred paths would form a cross.

Returning to the center, we discover Christ, who calls us and challenges us.

(Traditional Lakota Tribe Prayer, Alt.)

First Lesson: Acts 3:12-19

Psalter: 741 Psalm 4

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Second Lesson: 1 John 3:1-7

Hymn of Preparation: 352 (**Spoken**) "Standing in the
Need of Prayer"

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

Sermon: "Centering"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15ff)
(All are welcome)

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn: 374 (**Spoken**) "Standing on the Promises"

Closing prayer: 329 "Prayer to the Holy Spirit"

Extinguishing of candles and postlude

Going forth

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