

Native American Prayer Service



Leader: Today we pray with Native American tribes from the different areas of our continent, from the four directions held sacred by these people, who were the original inhabitants of the Americas. We celebrate the cultures of the many tribes who are a part of this land. We also remember that injustices still remain on many reservations and for many Native Americans; we pray for the end of poverty and violence on Native American reservations and for the end of discrimination toward Native Americans in communities outside of reservations. We pray for harmony among all peoples, so we may all share the gifts of God's Creation.

Reader 1: *From the Algonquian of the North*

O Spirit, who gives us our breath,
Watch over us.

O Spirit, who gives us our food,
Watch over us.

O Spirit, who gives us our family,
Watch over us.

Reader 2: O Spirit, who gives us our happiness,
Watch over us.

O Spirit, who makes all creatures who live,
Watch over us.

O Spirit, who makes us one with you,
Watch over us.

O Spirit, You are the only One;
Watch over us.

Reader 3: Watch over us all, Creator God, especially those Native Americans who live in poverty on reservations with little or no employment opportunities and with inadequate educational opportunities for their children.



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Reader 4: *From the Cherokee of the East*

We honor all you have created:

We are thankful for mother earth; may we know her abundance.

We are thankful for fire; may we be warmed by her flames.

We are thankful for wind; may we be cooled by her breezes.

We are thankful for water; may we be cleansed by her flowing streams.

We honor all that you have created,

And we pray for harmony in your lands.

Reader 5: We pray that everyone honors not only God's Creation, but also all His children. We pray for an end to individual discrimination toward Native Americans, and we pray for just government policies toward Native Americans on reservations. May all people on this continent live with justice and in harmony.

Reader 6: *From the Navajo of the Southwest*

O you who dwell

In the house made of the dawn,

In the house made of the evening twilight,

Heal me so I may chant:

In beauty I walk.

With beauty before me, I walk.

With beauty behind me, I walk.

With beauty below me, I walk.

With beauty all around me, I walk.



Reader 7: We pray for the end of violence toward Native American women, the violence of addiction among Native Americans, and the healing of all those who have endured violence. We pray that all those who have been touched by violence may know freedom, security and beauty in their lives.



PRAYER SERVICE

Reader 8: *From the Klamath of Oregon*

We come to the holy rocks,
O Creator, to listen for your voice.
We pray for guidance,
We pray for direction,
We pray for the way to open.
Give us the vision
To know your truth.



Leader: May we listen closely to your peoples, Creator God, of the North, East, South and West. May we appreciate and celebrate their rich cultures.

All: Guide us to see the needs of all our brothers and sisters,
Especially the Americans whose ancestors were here for thousands of years.

Give us the vision to see ways to end
The poverty, discrimination, and violence that still diminishes
The well-being of too many Native Americans.

Help us all to know Your truth and to participate
In Your great work of justice and peace for all peoples.

Direct us and open the way for us,
So all may live in harmony, beauty, and peace
With each other and the natural world. Amen.

