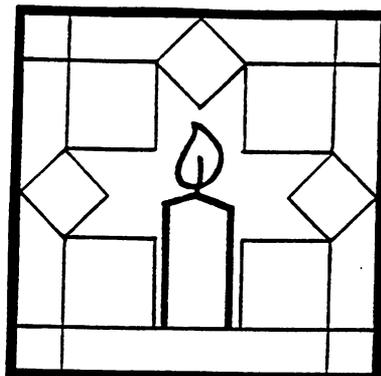


Worship Service 3:

Thanks for Creation



Introduction

This prayer includes a blessing of the four directions, which is a traditional Native-American style of prayer. It could be used with youth in the spring time or harvest time.

Set-up

Materials

- Bible
- Copy of closing prayer for all participants (provided)
- Charcoal and incense and something to put them in

Worship Space

It is most appropriate to do all creation prayer outdoors if at all possible, but if this is not possible it may be done indoors. If it is done indoors the room should be well lighted and well ventilated for the incense. Place incense in a central location.

Ministers Needed

- Leader
- Reader

Order of Service

Call to Worship

A Gathering Song is sung, for example "All the Ends of the Earth" or suitable song.

LEADER: Today we gather to celebrate God's glorious creation, and thank him for the beauty of Mother Earth.

Opening Prayer to the Four Directions

LEADER: Creator God, we praise you and we thank you because the world you have given to us is filled with such wondrous beauty.

(Please stand and face the East.)

We thank you Creator God for the rising sun. It fills our lives with light and warmth.

(Please face the South.)

We thank you Creator God for the soft winds and rains that you send to us from the south. They refresh our lives.

(Please face the West.)

We thank you Creator God for setting sun and night time. It allows us to rest and dream.

(Please face the North.)

We thank you Creator God for great winds and stormy nights. They fill us with awe of your power.

(Please face the center.)

We thank you Creator God for each other. It helps us remember that we are all brothers and sisters to one another.

(Please be seated.)

Reading

Psalm 107:19-25

Sharing

LEADER: We know that all of creation is from God. What do you most want to thank God for? *(Pause and allow time for youth to think.)*

For Small Groups

LEADER: I invite each of you to come and put some incense on the burning charcoal so that our prayers of thanksgiving will rise like the smoke, and to say out loud what you are thankful for.

Leader models, speaking loudly enough for everyone to hear.

For Large Groups

LEADER: Please share what you are thankful for with your neighbor.

Allow time for youth to share with one another.

LEADER: I invite each of you to process up and place some incense on the burning charcoal so that our prayers of thanksgiving will rise like the smoke.

Conclusion: An American Indian Prayer

Invite all to pray the American Indian Prayer provided (see accompanying sheet).