

Words to Ponder: *"The Holy land is everywhere."* Oglala Lakota,
Black Elk 1863 – 1950

Prelude

Welcome

Introit Chancel Choir

***Honor Creator and Creation**

By Jeff Ramsland, Mohawk

Creator made all that is, and proclaimed that "it is good."

Creator, help us to discover in all You have made in Nature, the good wisdom about the interconnectedness of all things, about balance and about living in harmony.

We are not above nature, we are part of Creation; we live by the same laws as all of nature, and need to learn from what God has made.

Creator, help us discover the power that lies in the wisdom and understanding of our role in the Great Mystery, and in honoring every living thing as a teacher.

Creator God, may our spirits be in harmony with Yours as we gather in Your worship!

*Hymn "My Life Is in You, Lord" See Insert

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Gracious God, you give to us your greatest gift, Your Son Jesus Christ, as we still don't understand what is going on. You call us to be people of courage and hope; and yet we run and hide, doubting and fearing. You challenge us to proclaim our faith; but we huddle in darkness whispering our words of discouragement. Shake us up, Lord! Forgive us when we seem to need prodding over and over again. Help us to see the presence of Jesus in our lives; and remind us of all that He taught us, to help us to live as disciples, serving you by serving others. Change us! Remold us! Make us truly the disciples you have called us to be. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Do not be afraid. The Light of God has vanquished the darkness! Christ is risen! Doubts are erased. Rejoice! God's love is poured upon you, now and forever. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 p.191 NT

Anthem Chancel Choir

Children's Time
(*Children Go to Junior Church*)

*Hymn "In the Garden" #314

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 24:36b-48 p.85 NT
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Holy Presence" Pastor Martha Epstein

Invitation to the Offering: Native American Awareness Sunday

Offertory

*Doxology #94

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, thank you for your presence with us. Receive our gifts as a symbol of our commitment to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students. Transform this offering into a declaration of your divine love that strengthens and encourages our indigenous siblings in Christ. Amen.

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Musical Response

*Hymn "Because He Lives" #364

*Benediction

*Response "Bless Us Now" Frank Milnes

**Bless us now as we depart, Watch o'er us, God, while we're
apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy
house again. Amen**

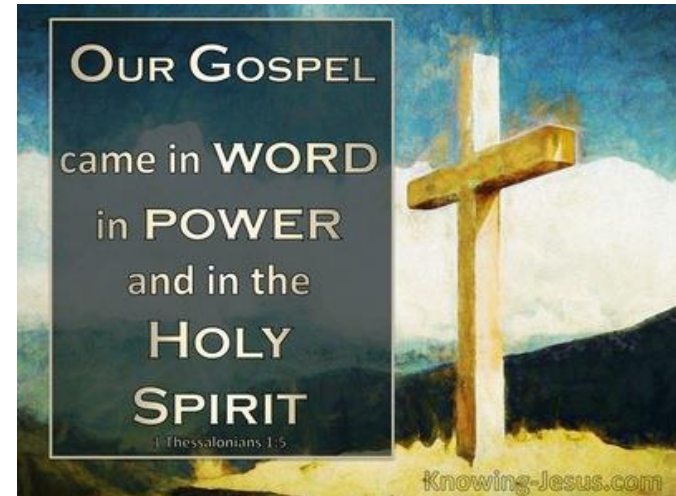
Postlude

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*Please stand in body and/or spirit

Flowers are in honor of Native American Awareness Sunday.

*The United Methodist
Church
12 Commerce St, Clinton,
Connecticut*



Native American Awareness Sunday

*Morning Worship
April 14, 2024
10:00 am*