

SERMON STARTER

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY



These worship resources are part of the Native American Ministries Sunday pastor and leader kit. They may be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other material in the kit.

These resources are inspired by Luke 24:36b–48.

“YOU ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS.”

It is a simple sentence, but it comes only after everything else.

First, Jesus comes to frightened disciples with a word of peace. Then he shows them his hands and his feet, where his crucifixion wounds are still visible. Then he opens their minds to understand the Scriptures. Only then does he send them.

The disciples are not chosen because they are fearless or fully prepared. They are still trying to make sense of the resurrection. So, Jesus meets them where they are. Before they speak a word about him, he has already spoken peace to them. Before they take a step in mission, he has already come to them in grace.

“You are witnesses of these things.”

Still today, the risen Christ continues to call witnesses from every nation, every culture, every community, and every generation. The good news never changes, but every community tells the story in its own voice, shaped by its own history, relationships, and gifts.

Across the United Methodist connection, we celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday and lift up indigenous

pastors, lay leaders, and congregations who are bearing witness to the risen Christ. Through scholarships, leadership development, and conference ministries, this Special Sunday helps nurture the leaders God is calling today so that every community may hear the good news through faithful witnesses.

We pray for them, encourage them, learn from them, and invest in their ministry because their witness strengthens the whole church. Our connection is more than a network of churches; it is a covenant to help form disciples and equip leaders wherever Christ is at work.

Every generation must answer the question of who will tell the Easter story next.

Who will proclaim peace where there is fear?

Who will testify that hope is stronger than despair?

Who will bear witness?

That is the question Luke leaves with us. And perhaps our response begins the same way the disciples' did: by receiving Christ's peace, allowing him to open our minds, and trusting him to make us faithful witnesses.

Continue >>>



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SEE. LISTEN. WITNESS.

This Native American Ministries Sunday, we are invited to see more clearly, listen more deeply, and bear witness to the risen Christ's ongoing redemption of the world.



Consider a Land Acknowledgement or a Welcome by the Original People, using these guidelines from the Native American International Caucus.

Visit:

r2hub.org/library/land-acknowledgement-vs-welcome-by-the-original-people



Learn about the Sand Creek Massacre and The United Methodist Church's continuing journey toward truth and reconciliation.

Visit:

Resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/agencies/archives-and-history/sand-creek-massacre



Explore resources from your conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM).

Visit:

UMNews.org/en/news/committee-on-native-american-ministries-conam-contacts

United in Impact: Our Generosity Supports Native Ministries, Honors Native Voices, and Strengthens the Whole Church