

# Native American Ministries Sunday

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ORIGINAL PHOTO BY GINNY UNDERWOOD



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Though it may be celebrated any time, congregations are encouraged to celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday with a special offering on April 18. This children's message is based on Luke 24:36b-48 which is the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel reading for that week. Tie together the fullness of this special Sunday with a coordinated sermon starter, liturgy, offering talk ([link](#)) along with children's bulletin ([link](#)).

Note: If you are gathering in person and not singing, the words to the song may be spoken instead of sung to minimize risk of COVID19

## JESUS LOVES ME

### Say:

Today we are still celebrating Easter. Our Bible reading today takes place later in the day after the women went to the tomb and saw that it was empty. The disciples still hadn't seen Jesus and they were locked in a room talking about the stories they were hearing about Jesus being risen. Hear this Bible reading from Luke 24:36b-40 (CEB)

*"While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet. It's really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones like you see I have." As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, "Do you have anything to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish. Taking it, he ate it in front of them."*

Can you repeat after me these words that Jesus said when he appeared to his friends? "Peace be with you!"  
(offer a moment to repeat).



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Some United Methodist Churches experience Jesus through rituals, language and music that might be different than how we normally express God's love through Jesus. For example, one of the special rituals that some Native Americans practice is making a prayer stick.

Do you know the song, "Jesus loves me?" You can sing with me if you like. (Open your United Methodist Hymnal to page 191 for the words).

Today we continue to celebrate Easter and we remember how much Jesus loves us. We also celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday. We are so glad for the Native American family that is part of The United Methodist Church. And do you know that our song book that we call a hymnal, has the song "Jesus Loves Me" in the Cherokee Native American Language? (sing the words and if you have time teach them to the children).

I wonder how the disciples felt when they realized that Jesus was not dead. What a wonderful gift to receive! And no matter what language we speak, each one of us can share the news that "Jesus loves me!"

### **Please pray with me:**

Creator God, thank you for the peace and love of Jesus. Thank you for the different languages that people speak to share your love. Thank you for the special celebrations of Easter and for Native American Ministries Sunday. Amen.



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