

Salford Mennonite Thanksgiving Liturgy 2021

This brief home liturgy can be used in whole or in parts as you celebrate Thanksgiving this year.

Listen

“Creation Is a Song”

(c) 2003 Doug Krehbiel and Jude Krehbiel

The text of this song, found in *Voices Together* 181, was written by Cheyenne Peace Chief and Mennonite pastor Lawrence Hart. [Listen to it here.](#)

From the text: *Creation is a song, a song that we can see, a sacred gift from God, let's join the harmony. The rolling of the oceans, the bubbling of a spring, night sky filled with jewels, a flock of beating wings. Dancing prairie meadows, fruit swaying on the vine, boiling storm clouds rising, lightning cross the sky.*

Acknowledge

The holy ground where we gather today is sacred to our Creator and is the original land of our Lenape kin. For many thousands of years, the Lenape sought to walk gently on this land. They offered assistance to the first European travelers to this area and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in honor and deep respect.

Read **Psalm 104: 24, 27-34**

²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—

³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³³ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.

Notice

Take a walk in your neighborhood or at the grass labyrinth at Salford. Take turns sharing good things you notice with your five senses: things you find beautiful, or reminders of goodness in God's world. Those who live alone may want to journal about this, or write a letter or call a loved one to share about what you experience.

Pray

Leader: We offer thanksgiving to our Creator,
recalling that Christ is the center of creation and our lives as Christians

As we face east, the direction of the rising sun,
we offer thanks for the gifts of the tree world and for new beginnings.

***All: help us to be honest with you and others and to be wise and just
in our use of the resources of the earth. We give thanks to you, O God.***

Leader: As we face south, where we receive warmth,
we offer thanks for the gifts of the animal world and for the call to be humble.

***All: Enable us to walk good path, to live as family should,
and with you to renew the face of the earth. We give thanks to you, O God.***

Leader: As we face west, where we receive teachings of faith,
we offer thanks for gifts of the rock world and the purifying and fruitful waters.

***All: Sustain us and the earth through your Holy Spirit,
and give us faith as strong as the rock. We give thanks to you, O God.***

Leader: As we face north, the direction of wind and snow,
we offer thanks for the plant world and for kindness and wisdom.

***All: Breathe your strength and endurance into us,
and give us wisdom to treat each other with kindness. We give thanks to you, O God.***

Leader: As we face center: From above comes the unconditional love of God.
From the earth comes the gift of life.

***All: We give thanks for love like the wings of the eagle. We dedicate our lives to you,
our Creator and Savior. As we walk on this earth, may we learn together and
celebrate the way of peace, harmony and tranquility. We give thanks to you, O God.***

Adapted from an Ojibwe indigenous six directions prayer. Found in Voices Together 864.

Share

Share your thoughts about these questions as a household, or journal in response to them.

- What do you notice in your body as you walk outside, or give thanks for creation?
- What is one good thing that is emerging, or wants to emerge in your life now?

Listen or sing

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” found in *Voices Together* 419

There are also many versions of this song on YouTube and Spotify; find one you like.