

Salford Families Land Acknowledgement of Native Peoples

The land we walk on today was underwater 265 million years ago. When the Flood was over, the creatures went out in all four directions of the earth to fill it up with life again. They often gathered along the rivers and lakes, because water brings life.

One of those waters was the East Branch of the Perkiomen Creek (*or name a river/lake closer to your home*).

The people lived first as families, and then grew into tribes. Most of the names of those families and tribes are not in our memory, but they were the first ones to care for this land. Some of the names that we do know have been shared by members of those tribes who still live today. The first people to care for the land we are standing on were the Lenape People.

They made their homes beside the river and grew in that place.

Then people came from Europe, and they wanted this land for themselves, and they did not go away. They fought with the native peoples, and broke their promises to share the land and its resources. Some of the native people died, and some were marched away to live in other places. It took a long time.

And now we stand on this ground today, a new and temporary steward of this holy ground. Let us make a new promise today, to remember and honor those who have cared for God's creation and one another in this place before we came.

Let us make a new promise today, to play, live, work, and love together, trusting that God created and loves all we see. Let us work for right relation and abundant life for all of creation.

- *Adapted from Rev. Sharolyn Browning, who wrote 'Land Acknowledgement in the Godly Play Tradition' and shared for faithful use and adaptation*