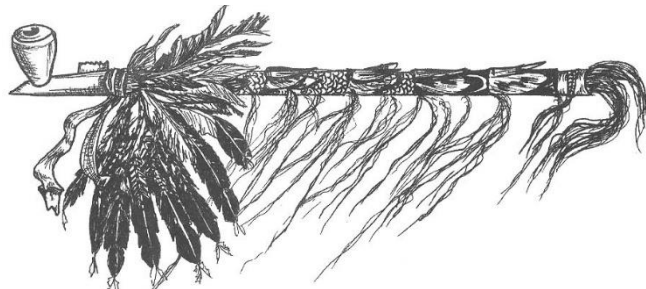


DEVOTIONS, INSPIRATIONAL, AND SERVICES



Introduction: This section contains Devotions and Inspirational pieces and some Services that can be used in many settings, such as a sunrise service, prayers at mealtimes, closing of the day, at the opening or closing of a meeting, or anywhere that a devotion is desired. They are encouraged wherever they are fitting and whenever possible. Meetings of any sort should open and close with some sort of devotional or reflection. Most of these devotions are related with a Native American Indian theme. All of the devotions and services presented are generally non-denominational but are Christian themed.

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The Great Spirit Loves the Children

O Great Spirit! I know how you love the children. They are our future.

They are the innocent ones. They are the hope of our people.

One above... Great One above... Help us to watch over the children.

Rainbow Sun

Indian Culture

Show RESPECT to others. Each person has a special gift.

Share what you have, giving makes you richer.

Know who you are, you are a reflection on your family.

Accept what life brings, as you cannot control many things.

Have patience, some things cannot be rushed.

Live carefully, what you do will come back to you.

Take care of others, you cannot live without them.

Honor your elders, they show you the way in life.

Pray for guidance, many things are not known.

See connections, as all things are related.

Native American Version of the Twenty-Third Psalm

The Great Father above is a Shepherd Chief. I am his and with Him, I want not. He throws out to me a rope and the name of that rope is Love. He draws me to where the grass is green and the water is not dangerous, and I eat and lie down and am satisfied. Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down but He lift me up again and draws me into a good road. His name is Wonderful.

Sometime, it may be very soon, it may be a long, long time, He will draw me into a valley. It is dark there, but I shall be afraid not, for it is in-between those mountains that the Shepherd Chief will meet me and the hunger that I have in my heart all through this life will be satisfied.

Sometimes, He makes the love rope into a whip, but afterwards, He gives me a staff to lean on. He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods. He puts His hand upon my head and all the "tired" is gone. My cup He fills till it runs over. What I tell is true. Do not doubt me. These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me through this life, and afterwards I will go to live in the Big Teepee and sit down with the Shepherd forever.

Native American Interpretation of Psalm 19

The Great Father has shown his power by making the starts of the heavens and the brightness of the lights in the sky is wonderful. His voice is the voice of nature, and his wisdom shows even in the darkness of the night. The whole earth is filled with the melody God.

In the great days of creation, He sent forth the great sun shining like the brightness on the face of a lover, and whose strength warms all the world. The law of the Great Father can do all good things and his words bring wisdom to simple souls.

Follow the way lead out by the Great Spirit of Wisdom and it will bring you in peace and contentment to a fine reward. Wash my heart, O God, for I would stand straight like an arrow, looking up, and not bending down with any wrong doing. Make my lips speak aright... May my heart think aright, O thou who are the strength of my life and the Savior of my soul.

The Parents Prayer

Oh Master, make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they say, and to answer all the questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them, talking back to them, and contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Give me courage to confess my sins against my children and to ask them forgiveness, when I know that I have done them a wrong.

May I not vainly hurt the feelings of my children. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame a ridicule as punishment. Let me not tempt my children to lie and steal. So guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do, that honesty produces happiness.

Reduce I pray, the meanness in me. May I cease to nag, and when I am out of sorts, help me to hold my tongue. Blind me to the little errors of my children, and help me to see the good things that they do. Give me a ready word for honest praise. Help me to grow up with my children, to treat them as would those of their own age; but let me not exact of them the judgement and convention of adults. Allow me not to rob them of the opportunity to wait upon themselves, to think, to choose, and to make decisions.

Forbid that I should ever punish them for my self-satisfaction. May I grant them all their wishes that are reasonable, and have the courage always to withhold a privilege which I know will do them harm. Make me so fair and just, so considerate and companionable to my children that they will have a genuine esteem for me. Fit me to be loved and imitated. With all Thy gifts, O Great Master, give me calm, poise and self-control.

The Native American Lord's Prayer

Great Spirit, whose tepee is in the sky, and whose hunting ground is the earth, mighty and fearful are you called. Ruler over storms, over men and birds and beasts. Have you way over all... over earth-ways as over skyways.

Find us this day our meat and corn, that we may be always strong and brave. And put aside from us our wicked ways, as we put aside the bad words of those who do us wrong. And let us not have such troubles as lead us into crooked roads, but keep us from all evil.

For yours is all that is... the earth and the sky; the streams, the hills and the valleys, the stars, the moon and the sun, and all that we live and breathe. Wonderful, shining, mighty Spirit.

A Father's Prayer

Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid, one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a son whose wishbone will not be there when his backbone should be, a son will know Thee and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge. Lead him, I pray not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a son whose heart will be clean, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future but never forget the past.

And after all these things as his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, never to take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of the true wisdom, the meekness of true strength. Then, I, his father will dare to whisper, I have not lived in vain.

General Douglas McArthur

Native American Beliefs

Encourage youth. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Think first of someone else. Laugh a little. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it still once again.

(The Indian) believes profoundly in silence. Silence is the absolute poise of body, mind and spirit. If you ask: "What are the fruits of silence?" he will say: "They are self-control, true courage of endurance, patience, dignity and reverence. Silence is the cornerstone of character.

OhiyeSa, Santee Sioux

Prayer for the New Day

I dedicate myself to the Power Above, as the glory of the sunrise. The purple of the new day reveals the mystery of man's being. The golden light reveals the tenderness of Almighty Power. The piercing red glow of sun shattering clouds of darkness reveals eternal strength. Now may I clothe myself in thy radiant countenance. May I renew my life with Thy breath and be washed in eternal glory.

May I walk on Thy foot-trail of good in life. Let my thoughts rise to the height as the wings of the eagle. And led by Thy strength and wisdom from all directions of space. May I bless Thee with my songs of praise, unceasing as the returning winds.

Thy word has been spoken in thunder and lightning flash and Thy glory is now established. May I be strong so that I may lead others to stay upon the path of light. And humbly I will come and bow to Thee at the end of the trail as your child.

Concept of the Southwest Hopi, interpretation by Patricia Benton

Navajo Prayer

In beauty may I walk.

With beauty before me and behind me, may I walk.

With beauty above and below me, may I walk.

With beauty all around me, may I walk.

In beauty, may my walk be finished.

Native American Prayers

#1

O Great Spirit of my fathers, this is my prayer. Help me to free Thine urge and Thy message.
Help me to be just even to those who hate me, and at all times, help me to be kind.
If my enemy is weak and faltering, help me to the good thought that I may forgive him.
If he surrender, move me to help him as a weak and needy brother.

#2

O Great Spirit of my fathers, help me to wholly void my heart of fear.
Above all things, O God of my people and my soul, help me to be a man.

#3

O God, show me the way of wisdom, and give me the strength to follow without fear.

#4

O Great Spirit, this is my prayer!
Grant that fear may never enter into my heart to be the guide of my feet.

#5

Great Spirit, bless our Indian circle. Watch over us tonight.
And keep us safe beside you until the mornings light, Amen!

#6

Keeper of the strong rain, drumming on the mountain, Lord of the small rain, that restores the
earth in newness, keeper of the clean rain, hear a prayer for Wholeness!
Little Brave, Big Brave, hear a prayer for fleetness. Keeper of the deer's way, reared among the
eagles, clear my feet of slothness. Keeper of the paths for men, hear a path for Straightness!
Hear a prayer for courage. Lord of the thin peaks, reared among the thunders, keeper of the
headlands, holding up the harvests, keeper of the strong rocks, hear a prayer for Staunchness!

#7

May the Great Mystery Make Sunrise in Your Heart!

#8

O Great Spirit, show me the way of wisdom, and give me strength to follow it without fear!

Native American Prayers (cont.)

#9

Oh Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind, and whose breath give life to all the world,
Hear Me! I am small and weak, I need Your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty and let my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things You have made, and my ears sharp to hear Your voice.

Make me wise so that I may understand the things You have taught my people.

Let me hear the lessons You have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy... myself.

Make me always ready to come to You with clean hands and straight eyes,

So that when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

#10

O Great Spirit, our heavenly father, you have given us many gifts for which we thank you.

The sun and the cool winds, the rain and the growing things.

You have given us life, you have given us families to love.

But most important, you have given us a mind and reason,

So that we may know you and follow your ways. Without you, we are weak.

Strengthen us and give us courage to live our life as you inspire us to use your gifts wisely, and
to listen for your words of guidance this morning and every day of your lives.

#11

May the warm winds of heaven blow softly on your house,
And may the Great Spirit bless all who enter there.

God Who Touchest Earth

Go, who touchest earth with beauty, make us lovely, too;

With Thy Spirit, recreate us, make our heart anew.

Like the springs and running waters, make us crystal pure.

Like the rocks of towering grandeur, make us upright be.

Like the arching of the heavens, lift our thoughts above;

Turn our dreams to noble actions, ministries of love.

God who touches the earth with beauty, make us lovely, too;

Keep us ever by Thy Spirit, pure and strong and true.

Gods Drum

The circle of the Earth is the head of a great drum; with the day it moves upward... booming;
With the night, it moves downward... booming; the day and the night are its song.

I am very small as I dance upon the drumhead;
I am like a particle of dust as I dance upon the drum head.
Above me the in the sky is the shining ball of the drumstick.

I dance upward with the day; I dance downward with the night;
Someday I shall dance afar into space like a particle of dust.
Who is the drummer who beats upon the earth drum?
Who is the drummer who makes me to dance this song?

The Creation

At first, forever, lost in space, the Great Manito was.
He made the sun, the moon, and the stars. He made them all to move evenly.
Then the wind blew violently, and it cleared, and the water flowed off far and strong.
And a group of new islands grew newly, and there remained.
Anew spoke the Great Manito, a Manito to Manito's, to being mortals, souls and all
And ever after, He as A Manito to men and their grandfathers.

Algonquin

Nature Prayer

For the sweet smelling grass beneath my moccasined feet,
For the fragrance of violets and pine needles sweet,
For the soft green moss on the century-old tree,
For the stretches of deep blue water, calm and free,
For insect glistening in the sun, for the robin's son when springs begun,
For the brilliant colors of birds and flowers, for all the pleasures of sunny hours,
For blueberries ripe and for maize fields green, for evening campfires where all is serene,
For the sinking sun flushed with crimson dyes, for the starry heaven and moon-lit skies,
For the length shadows that slowly creep, for the blessing of quiet, refreshing sleep,
I give thanks, Great Spirit, for these natural things, for they surpass the wealth of kings.

Prayer to the Six Directions

To the East

Great Spirit of Light, come to me out of the East (red) with the power of the rising sun, the quiet coming of the new dawn, the joyous breaking forth of Spring, the place of birth and rebirth and the beginning of life. Let there be light in my words, let there be light on my path that I walk. Let me remember always that you give the gift of a new day. And never let me be burdened with sorrow by not starting over again.

To the South

Great Spirit of Creation, send me the warm and soothing winds from the South (yellow). Comfort me and caress me when I am tired and cold with the high heat of noonday, Bring me your flowering warmth of Summer and unfold me like the gentle breezes that unfold the leaves on the trees. Bring me to the fullness of life, as you give to all the earth your warm, moving wind, give to me, so that I may grow close to you in warmth. Man did not create the web of life, he is but a strand in it. Whatever man does to the web, he does to himself.

To the West

Great Life-Giving Spirit, I face the West (black), the direction of sundown, the quiet peace of evening, the changing colors of the Fall and the place of harvest and the gathering of life. Let me remember every day that the moment will come when my sun will go down. Never let me forget that I must fade into you. Give me a beautiful color, give me a great sky for setting, so that when it is my time to meet you, I can come with glory.

To the North

Great Spirit of Love, come to me with the power of the North (white), the clear darkness of night, the deep cold of Winter, the place of purification and the transformation of life; Make me courageous when the cold wind falls upon me. Give me strength and endurance for everything that is harsh and everything that hurts, everything that makes me fear. Let me move through life ready to take what comes from the north.

To our Mother Earth...The ever constant giver of life, from whom all things draw sustenance; who, in the greatness of her family, offers blessing and freedom to each of her children.

To Grandfather Sky, our Great Spirit... First in all things, Creator of all Life, who was, and is, and will always be; who, within the immensity of all creation, is uniquely present here and now, in this moment.

To these Six Directions...Together making the oneness of God and Creation. We offer praise and thanksgiving and we ask these things: A heart open and made strong with love, a mind clear and made wise with understanding, a life lived with courage and compassion in the fulfillment of Divine Purpose.

Lakota Prayer to the Four Winds

Great Spirit, I invoke the peace pipe in reverence and gratitude,
Of the vast creation, of which I am a part. To the life-giving of your servant,
The sun and all heavenly bodies, the blue sky, the great everlasting rocks,
The magnificent mountains with their fragrant forests, pure streams and the animal kingdom.
We thank you for all these gifts.

To the North and its guard, the White Eagle,
Keep us pure and clean of mind, thoughts as white as your blanket, the snow. Made us hardy.

To the East and your sentry, the Red Eagle,
Grant us light that we may see our faults, and have better understanding with everyone.

To the South, and your sentinel, Brown Eagle,
The beautiful one, grant us warmth of heart, love and kindness to all.

To the West and your Thunder Bird,
Who flies over the universe hidden in a cloak of rain clouds and cleanses the world of filth,
Cleanse our bodies and souls of all evil things.

To Mother Earth, we come from you and will return to you,
Keep us in plenty that our days may be long with you,

Great Spirit we thank you and appreciate all these wonderful gifts to us.
Have pity on us.

Dakota Prayer

Grandfather, Great Spirit, You have always been, and nothing before you has been. There is no one to pray to but you. The star nations all over the heavens are Yours, and Yours are the grasses of the earth. You are older than all need, older than all pain and prayer.

Grandfather, Great Spirit, all over the world, the faces of the living ones are alike. With tenderness they have come up out of the ground. Look upon Your children, with children in their arms, that they may face the winds and walk the good road to the day of quiet.

Grandfather, Great Spirit, fill us with the light. Give us the strength to understand and eyes to see. Teach us to walk the soft earth as relative to all that live.
Help us, for without you we are nothing.

Prayer to the Four Directions

(Facing East)

Oh Great Spirit of the East, where the sun always rises, lift up the hearts of all those who might feel discouraged. Send wisdom to the hearts of men. May each rising sun instill in them a desire to be a friend of all men.

(Facing South)

Oh Great Spirit of the South from whence comes the warm breezes, make clear the minds of men. Help them make broad and lasting decisions for the welfare of all men.

(Facing North)

Oh Great Spirit of the North, from whence comes cold winds and long nights, make smooth the paths of all those who travel. May they reach the end of their journeys in good health and good spirits.

(Facing West)

Oh Great Spirit of the West, where the sun always sets and where the buffalo vanishes, do not remove us from this earth until all things that should be done by us are done.

Native American Interpretation of Genesis

(In the Beginning...)

In the beginning, the Great Spirit made this world for His pleasure. He piled up the mountains, scooped out the lakes, traced the rivers, planted the forests; and to dwell in them, He created the insects, the fish, the reptiles, the birds, the beasts, and man - all of one flesh, and in all the breath of life, which is a measure of the Great Spirit.

All are His children - and man is but a little higher than the animals - he is better only in having a larger measure of understanding, and in better knowledge of the Great Spirit. So also in better gift, he has the power of hearing the Voices from which comes knowledge of the Unseen World.

Omaha Interpretation of Genesis **(In the Beginning...)**

At the beginning, all things were in the mind of Wakonda. All creatures, including man, were spirits. They moved about in space between the earth and the stars (the heavens). They were seeking a place where they could come into a bodily existence. They ascended to the sun, but the sun was not fitted for their abode. They moved on to the moon and found that it also was not good for their home. Then they descended to the earth. They saw it was covered with water. They floated through the air to the north, the east, the south, and the west, and found no dry land. They were sorely grieved. Suddenly from the midst of the water, uprose a great rock. It burst into flames, and the waters floated into the air in clouds. Dry land appeared; the grasses and the trees grew. The hosts of spirits descended and became flesh and blood. They fed on the seeds of the grasses and the fruits of the trees, and the land vibrated with their expressions of joy and gratitude to Wakonda, the maker of all things.

From the ritual of the Omaha Pebble Society.

The Lessons of Lone-Chief, Skur-Ar-Ale-Shar, Pawnee Chief

(Given to him by his widowed mother)

"When you get to be a man, remember that it is ambition that makes the man.

"If you go on the warpath, do not turn around when you have gone part war,
But go on as far as you were going; then come back".

"If I should live to see you become a man, I want you to become a great man.
I want you to think about the hard times we have been through."

"Take pity on people who are poor, because we have been poor,
And people have taken pity on us."

"If I live to see you a man, and to go off on the warpath, I would not cry if I were to hear that
you had been killed in battle. That is what makes a man, to fight and to be brave."

"Love your friend and never desert him. If you see him surrounded by the enemy,
Do not run away; go to him, and if you cannot save him,
Be killed together and let your bones lie side by side."

The Omaha Tribal Prayer

"Wa-kon-da dhe dhu, Wapa-dhin a-ton-he."

Translated into English: "Father, a needy one stands before Thee. I that sing am he."

This noble prayer to God was sung on the Missouri River, believed to be long before Columbus landed, and with the music, words, and attitude just as the Woodcraft Way use them today. During the prayer, those assembled stand in a great circle about the fire, with faces and hands raised to heaven. As the final words are sung, hands and heads are bowed to the symbolic fire, and the Chief announces: "With this our council is ended."

Prayer to the Great Mystery

Great Mystery, you existed from the first. The sky, the earth you created,
Great Mystery, look upon me, pity me, that the Nation my live.

Earth, Father of all, I make this offering, pity me. Chief of all, I make this offering, pity me.
Spirit Creatures of the Four Winds, to you I offer this pipe, that the Nation may live.

North, this day, no other creature may be mentioned, before the face of the North,
Let the Nation live.

Sunrise, no other creature may be mentioned,
May there be no adversity that the Nation may live.

West, Nation of Thunderer's, give me a good day that the Nation may live.

Great Mystery, You are mighty. Pity me that the Nation may live.
Great Mystery, help me with an omen, that the Nation may live.

Benediction to the Creator

May the peace of the forest, the song of the birds, the warmth of the sun,
The strength of the trees, the fragrance of the flowers, the joy of the winds,
And the calm of the lake,
In all of which is the Creator of all good things, be in our hearts tonight and always.

Direction

I was directed by my Grandfather...
To the East, so I might have the power of the bear;
To the South, so I might have the courage of the eagle;
To the West, so I might have the wisdom of the owl;
To the North, so I might have the craftiness of the fox;
To the Earth, so I might receive her fruit;
And to the Sky, so I might lead a life of innocence.

Alonzo Lopez (Papago)

Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, they learn to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule, they learn to be shy.
If a child lives with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance, they learn to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If a child lives with praise, they learn to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness, they learn justice.
If a child lives with security, they learn to have faith.
If a child lives with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, they learn to find love in the world.

The Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave,
Green is for the grass He made,
Yellow is for the sun so bright,
Orange is for the edge of night,
Black is for the sins we made,
White is for the grace He gave,
Purple is for the hour of sorrow,
Pink is for the new tomorrow.
A bag full of jelly beans, colorful and sweet,
Is a prayer... is a promise... is a small child's treat.

Sacred Tree of Life (A Nature Prayer)

Sacred tree of life, teach us to root our self and walk in balance.
Teach us to share our shelter, our food, our breath.
Teach us to bend, and have compassion and love for our brothers and sisters.
Teach us to be grateful for all gifts we receive and remind us to pray.
Teach us to stand tall and reach for Grandfather Sun.
Teach us to share and live as one.
Sacred tree of life, thank you for all your wisdom and for all life in which you provide.

Little Brave Today and Big Brave Tomorrow

Little Brave today and Big brave tomorrow, so swiftly our short lives do fly,
Yet so sure is their course through both sunshine and sorrow,
that to slow them, it's useless to try.

It seems not more than a few days ago, that I begged and prayed for a son,
That if God would just grant me that one small request, I'd serve him till my days were don.
And yet as I look o'er the trail I have trod, through the years filled with sadness and joy,
I doubt that I would have been a good son to my God, or a praiseworthy Dad to my boy.
For I've kind of neglected them both now and then, been selfish when I should have shared,
Just few of the hours of many there've been, so they'd have known that I really have cared.
Yet though I've forgotten both Father and son, off and on through the course of my years,
My boy's always loyal in rain and in sun, and my God calms my deadliest fears.
So I pray that within what remain of my days, be there man or few left to live,
I may serve God and son in all possible ways, and with all the love I can give.
So that when the last race of my life has been run, and I've given life all that I've had,
That my God will be pleased to call me His son, and my son proud to call me his dad.

Doug Ewald

'Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime (The Huron Christmas Carol)

'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou, sent angel choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus, your King, is born; Jesus is born! *In excelsis gloria!*
Within a lodge of broken bark, the tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin, Enwrapped His beauty round.
And as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus, your King, is born; Jesus is born! *In excelsis gloria!*
O children of the forest free, O songs of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven, is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy, who brings you beauty, peace and joy:
Jesus, your King, is born; Jesus is born! *In excelsis gloria!*

Father Jean deBrebeuf, 1640, among the Canadian Huron/Wendot

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE #1 (Sunrise Service)

Song God Bless America

Reader Lord, bless our family with openness to real communication. With sharing in all our joys and sorrow. With freedom to let each other grow. With understanding for the gifts that each has to give. And of course, with love, no matter what, no matter where.

ALL LIVE IN THE BEAUTY OF TODAY.

Reader O Great Spirit, as we gather to worship, be with us and guide us. Grant us wisdom and understanding, that we may do those things which are pleasing to you.

ALL GREAT SPIRIT, HEAR ME. THIS DAY I AM TO TELL YOUR WORD. I SHALL SPEAK WITHOUT SIN. THE TRIBE SHALL LIVE. I AM HUMBLE. FROM ABOVE, WATCH ME. YOU ARE ALWAYS THE TRUTH. LISTEN TO ME. I SHALL BE AT PEACE. MAY OUR VOICES BE HEARD.

Reader O Great Spirit above! In your wisdom, you are our camp. Guide us in all things, and give us of your wisdom. Give us a long life. Give us courage so that when we start out upon a trail, we will follow it to the end, and not turn back when only half of it is covered.

ALL SEE NOT ONLY WITH YOUR TWO EYES, BUT ALSO WITH ONE EYE, WHICH IS IN YOUR HEART.

Song Jesus Loves Me

Parents God bless our children with gentle kindness. Guide our children with tender love. Show our children the way of brightness. Fill our children's hearts with love.

Reader So many events and memories about our children are stored in our hearts. Share these events and memories with your children. Tell them of your happiest memories and of your dreams and concerns for them. This is the stuff that gives us roots. It is also the glue that bonds us as a family.

ALL O GREAT SPIRIT, I AM GLAD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE AGAIN. BESTOW UPON THE TRIBE, HAPPINESS AND A GOOD LIFE.

Reader When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light. Give thanks for your life and strength.

ALL GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR FOOD AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE JOY OF LIVING.

Reader Show respect to all but bow to none.

ALL ALWAYS GIVE A WORD OR SIGN OF SALUTE WHEN MEETING OR PASSING A FRIEND, OR EVEN A STRANGER.

Reader Remember the golden rule of camp... "Take only memories, leave only footprints". Leave nothing behind. Preserve the land as you found it.

ALL DO NOT GO ABOUT POLLUTING THE LAND OR DESTROYING ITS BEAUTY. HONOR THE GREAT SPIRITS WORK IN FORREST, FIELD AND STREAM.

Song He's Got the Whole World

Leader Go now and may the Great Spirit make sunrise in your heart!

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE #2 (A Winter Morning Chapel Service)

ALL BE PRESENT AT THIS SERVICE O GOD, AS WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THIS CHANCE FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO BE TOGETHER.

Leader It is winter now, the fallen snow has left the heavens all cold and clear. Through the branches that have lost their leaves, the sharp winds blow, and all the earth lies quiet and restful. And yet, God's love is not withdrawn... His life within the keen air breathes, His beauty paints the bright red dawn, and He walk with us and hears our every word.

ALL O BRIGHT MORNING STAR, TO WHOM WE RAISE OUR EYES IN PRAYER, HELP US TO EVER LOOK UP AND NOT DOWN. IF WE SHOULD FALL AND STUMBLE TODAY, MAY WE RISE TOMORROW, KNOWING THAT GOD WILL LEND A HELPING HAND AND THAT WE MAY GROW TO BECOME WHAT WE WERE INTENDED TO BE. AMEN.

Reader O Great Spirit, our heavenly father, you have given us many gifts for which we thank you. The sun and the cool winds, the rain and the growing things. You have given us life, you have given us families to love. But most important, you have given us a mind and reason, so that we may know you and follow your ways. Without you, we are weak. Strengthen us and give us courage to live our life as you inspire us to use your gifts wisely, and to listen for your words of guidance this morning and every day of your lives.

Song America (O Beautiful for Spacious Skies...)

Reader (A Story of Patience) None year old Larry was puzzled. He had gone with his parents to the mountains, and they were enjoying an early autumn picnic. No sooner had the blessing been said and the meal begun, that they heard a chattering in the pines above them. In a moment a large gray bird swooped over their heads on silky wings and perched on a nearby branch.

"There's a camp robber, Larry, his mother whispered. "Toss him a bit of bread and see if you can lure him down." The bird dived on the bread that Larry tossed and carried it high up into a pine tree for safe keeping, and was back in a flash, chattering for more. Soon the bird was joined by two more robbers, and Larry's family forgot about eating, as they were so interested in the birds.

But Larry was not satisfied. He wanted those birds to eat out of his hand, and he kept luring them by throwing bit of bread closer and closer to himself. Finally, he dropped a bit of bread from one hand into another so that the birds could see it was there. Slowly and cautiously, one of the birds circled around, edging closer. But Larry could stand it no longer. He pushed the bread out toward the bird, and the startled bird squawked away. Time and again this happened, and then Larry caught on... the only way to get a camp robber to eat from his hand was to remain perfectly motionless until the bird developed enough trust to come and get it himself. It would take patience, and lots of it. Larry sat there until he was nearly sunburned, but he had his reward... a wild bird, trusting enough to come and eat out of his hand.

Reader Heavenly father, teach us patience. Teach us sympathy for feeling of each of your creatures. May we remember that only as we show ourselves trust, worthy can we expect people as well as birds and animals to depend on us. Amen.

Song Morning Has Broken

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE #3 (At Christmastime)

Leader Wherefore God hath... given him a name which is above every name... that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

Reader 1 Native American 23rd Psalm (found in this Devotion section)

Reader 2 Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (found in this Devotion section)

Leader O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom.

ALL LET ME WALK IN BEAUTY...

Leader And make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

ALL MAKE MY HANDS RESPECT THE THINGS...

Leader You have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

ALL MAKE ME WISE...

Leader So that I may understand the things you have taught me.

ALL LET ME LEARN...

Leader The lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

ALL I SEEK STRENGTH...

Leader Not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy, myself.

ALL MAKE ME ALWAYS READY...

Leader To come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

ALL SO THAT WHEN LIFE FADES, AS THE FADING SUNSET, MY SPIRIT MAY COME TO YOU WITHOUT SHAME.

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE #4 (Responsive Readings Service, taken from American Indian Prayers)

Leader O Great Spirit of your fathers, this is our prayer!

ALL HELP US THE FEEL THY URGE AND THY MESSAGE.

Leader Help us to be just, even to those who hate us.

ALL AT ALL TIMES, HELP US TO BE KIND.

Leader If our enemy is weak and faltering, help us to the good thought that we forgive them.

ALL IF HE SURRENDER, MOVE US TO HELP HIM AS A WEAK AND NEEDY BROTHER.

Leader O Great Spirit of our fathers, help us to wholly void our hearts of fear.

ALL O GREAT SPIRIT, SHOW US THE WAY TO WISDOM AND GIVE US STRENGTH TO FOLLOW IT WITHOUT FEAR.

Leader O Great Spirit, this is our prayer! Grant that fear may never enter into our hearts to be the guide of our feet.

ALL HELP ME TO WIN, IF I MAY. BUT ESPECIALLY, GREAT SPIRIT, IF IT NOT ME MEAN THAT I MAY WIN, MAKE ME AT LEAST A GOOD LOSER.

Leader When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light. Give thanks for your life and strength.

ALL GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR FOOD AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE JOY OF LIVING.

Leader Every village should have its Holy place, it Medicine Lodge, where all may meet to dance and make medicine.

ALL AND EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN HOLY PLACE WHERE THEY CAN KEEP VIGIL, HARKEN FOR THE VOICES, AND OFFER PRAYER AND PRAISE.

Leader Show respect for all, but bow down to none.

ALL ALWAYS GIVE A WORD OR SIGN OF SALUTE WHEN MEETING OR PASSING A FRIEND, OR EVEN A STRANGER.

Leader Remember the golden rule of camp... "Take only memories, leave only footprints". Leave nothing behind. Preserve the land as you found it.

ALL DO NOT GO ABOUT POLLUTING THE LAND OR DESTROYING ITS BEAUTY. HONOR THE GREAT SPIRITS WORK IN FORREST, FIELD AND STREAM.