

## Worship Volunteers:

**Greeter/Ushers:** Dewey-Gately Family

**Assisting Minister:** Jay Forth

**Reader:** Gary Maring

**Children Sermon:** Krista Sickert-Bush

**Communion Assistants:** Elizabeth Ellis, Makenzie Gold-Quiros, John Means,  
& Michael Sonnenberg

**Counters:** Christina Davis & Jackson Droney

**Friends of the Feast:** Frank De Silva

**Live-Broadcasting:** Patrick Callahan

**Staff Lead:** Bianca Vazquez

## Luther Place Staff

Rev. Karen Brau, **Senior Pastor**

[seniorpastor@lutherplace.org]

Xavier Williamson, **Congregation Administrator**

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Kristen Kane, **New Connections Coach**

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Nancy White, **Office Volunteer**



HOSPITALITY + WORSHIP + SPIRITUAL GROWTH + JUSTICE + COMMUNITY CARE



## FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

April 29th, 2018

10:30 AM Service of Communion

Rev. Karen Brau, Senior Pastor

**Luther Place Memorial Church**

1226 Vermont Ave, NW Washington, DC 20005 ♦ (202) 667-1377 ♦ [www.lutherplace.org](http://www.lutherplace.org)

## Our Purpose

God's purpose for our congregation is to grow a Christ-centered inclusive community, led by the Spirit, that proclaims the Gospel's transforming love and grace and challenges injustice.

## Our Guiding Principles

1. All of God's creation is sacred.
2. We listen to the Holy Spirit through worship, Scripture, and prayerful reflection.
3. We seek continuous transformation to become radically hospitable.
4. We invite all into the journey with Christ through reconciliation with each other and God.
5. We respond to injustice through loving service and courageous action.
6. We walk together in our celebrations and our struggles.

## Our Vision

Luther Place will be a community that looks and feels like God's kingdom in its beautiful expansiveness, where all are called into relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. In this place we will use our gifts to act in the world and build the beloved community.

**Worship** attracts and gathers a range of people with various services and styles, engaging the community in a depth of traditional practices and creative endeavors.

**Spiritual Growth** is how we are formed as disciples of Jesus Christ, embracing scripture and all opportunities to engage the divine, and nurturing us to contemplate, study, and question our faith.

**Justice** is a public witness to our faith; we will continue our history of openness to what arrives, standing in solidarity and acting with people who are struggling in our community, country, and world.

**Hospitality** is how we—each of us—extend God's kingdom to a dynamic and diverse city, growing our community and engaging all of God's children, from the powerless to the powerful.

**Community Care** is how we sustain a vibrant community, our intentional practice of supporting and nurturing one another in all stages of life, in celebration and sorrow.

## Today—Wise Elders Brunch, April 29, 12 pm

Please join us for our quarterly brunch following the 10:30 am service. We welcome this time for intergenerational fellowship and discussions around our personal faith journeys. Many of our wise elders were congregants at Luther Place in 1968 and witnessed the DC riots in response to the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Their visions and actions formed the beginnings of our modern urban ministry. Please RSVP to [operations@lutherplace.org](mailto:operations@lutherplace.org).

## 20s/30s Bible Study, September, May 14th at 7pm

Join us at Vanesa's apartment in Capitol Hill as we delve into scripture to explore life's different seasons. Our study on will focus on justice and injustice. Please RSVP to Vanesa at [vanesa.her@gmail.com](mailto:vanesa.her@gmail.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Today, we pray for:

Welcome baby Joey to Karen & Sean Gardner!  
Fred Sickert, the father of Krista Sickert-Bush  
as he undergoes open heart surgery  
Christiana Lindholm & family on the death of her grandfather.  
Henry Bowden and family as they grieve the death of his brother, Steve.  
Alberta William who is in the hospital recovering from surgery.

### Congregational Offering

#### March 2018

Budgeted: \$42,000

Actual: \$42,857

#### YTD as of 3/31/18

Budgeted: \$148,000

Actual: \$135,205

### Pastor Karen Sabbatical, September-November 2018

Pastor Karen will go on sabbatical later this year. Please see website for a blog on Sabbath Care!

### Today—Bishop Rutsindinwarne Visit, April 29, 9:15 am

Assistant Bishop John Rutsindinwarne, Lutheran Church of Rwanda, will speak at the Luther Place Adult Spiritual Formation class on April 29 at 9:15 am. Bishop Rutsindinwarne is a long-time friend of Luther Place having interned here in 2001. Luther Place has been supporting his reconciliation and community development work in Rwanda since 2006. A Luther Place delegation of 14 people went to Rwanda to visit the bishop and see his projects in action. Luther Place support enabled the bishop's team to build a medical clinic in rural southeast Rwanda. Members Margaret and Gary Maring made a second visit to Rwanda in 2011 to assist with installing solar power for the medical clinic.

## Welcome to worship at Luther Place!

**Are you a guest?** If so, here are some things you might like to know...

**Please fill out a card** to let us know who you are—we'd love to be in touch with you! The cards can be placed in the offering plate when completed. We are blessed by your presence and hope you will join us again.

**Parking** is available **across the street in the Washington Plaza Hotel**. The garage has **two** floors available. Please ask an usher for a parking voucher. Your reimbursement of the cost of \$5 per use will be greatly appreciated. Additionally, we reserve the parking spots in the circle driveway on Vermont Ave. for use by those with mobility issues and their drivers. We encourage the use of public transportation; free bike parking is available inside the Vermont entrance to Luther Place.

**A children's nursery** is available before, during, and after worship. The nursery is located within the chapel by the entrance on N Street.

**Children's church bags** are located in the back of the Sanctuary. The activity bags are for kids of all ages; they include crayons, a coloring book, books to read, etc. Please help children use these materials for doodling rather than the gift envelopes and prayer cards.

**Video Recordings of Worship Services** are available on the Luther Place website:

[www.lutherplace.org/sermons](http://www.lutherplace.org/sermons).

**In prayers and songs, the bold print is congregational response.**

**P= pastor; A= assisting minister; C= congregation.**

**Here at Luther Place, we love to sing!**



We like to explore a diversity of music, though much of it comes from the **Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal (ELW)**. This hymnal holds service music in the first half and hymns in the second half. The service music can be found with the small page numbers at the bottom of each page. The hymns can be found using the large numbers at the top of each page. We also use hymns from This Far by Faith Hymnal (TFF), the Lutheran African American hymnal.

**References to God** in traditional prayers and hymns may sometimes be gender specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God. You are also invited to sing hymns or speak parts of the services, such as The Lord's Prayer, in your native tongue.

## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Welcome

*We welcome you to worship today! If you are a visitor, please fill out a welcome card at the ends of the pews, and put in offering plate or give to an usher.*

### Creation Liturgy

**A:** Let the light fall warm and red on the rock, let the birds sing their evening song and let God's people say Amen.

**C: Amen.**

**A:** Let the tools be stored away, let the work be over and done and let God's people say Amen.

**C: Amen.**

**A:** Let the flowers close and the stars appear, let hearts be glad and minds be calm and let God's people say Amen.

**C: Amen.**

### Confession

**A:** O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,

**C: Open our eyes to see.**

**A:** O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,

**C: Open our eyes to see.**

**A:** O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,

**C: Open our eyes to see.**

**A:** O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering,

**C: Open our eyes to see.**

### \*Table Blessing

P: Life-giving God,

in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection  
you send light to conquer darkness,

water to give new life,

and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.

Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection

that we may show your glory to all the world;

through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Prayer after Communion

A May God who has brought us from death to life

fill you with great joy, and bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

### Sending Song: ELW 733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

### Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

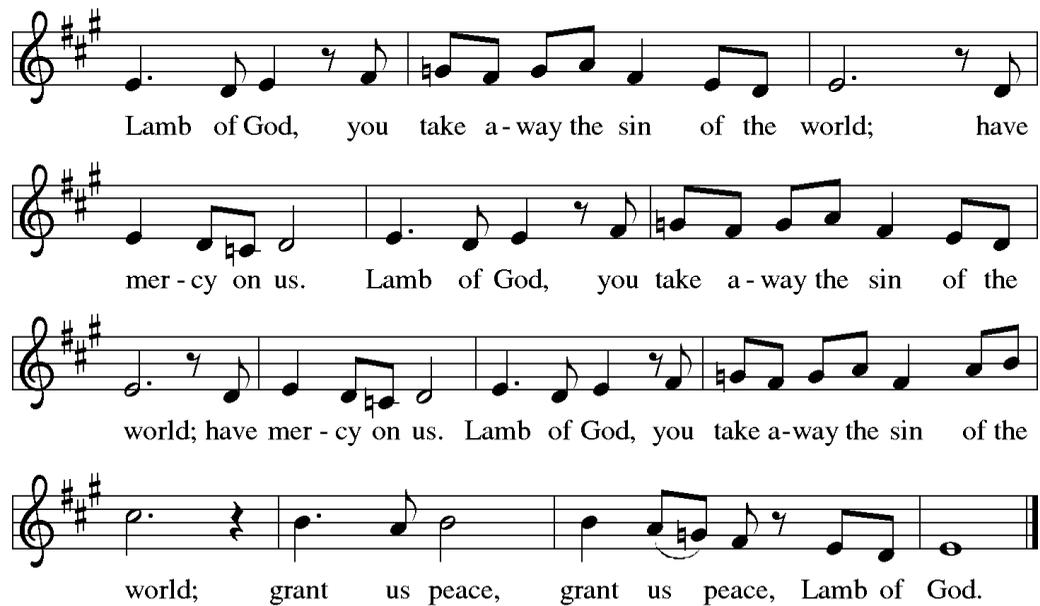
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

**\*Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

**Distribution**

*Communion (Eucharist) celebrated at Luther Place is open to all. Ushers will direct you to the correct station. We use two cups; one with wine and the other with juice. You may either dip the bread into the cup (intinction) or eat the bread first and drink from the cup. Gluten-free wafers are available on the altar. Return to your seat using the exterior aisles.*

**Communion:**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Communion Song: ELW 465—As the Grains of Wheat**

**A:** God our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,  
**C:** That we repent and care more deeply.

**A:** So move us to grieve the loss of life,  
**C:** That we learn to cherish and protect your world.

**\*Gathering Song: ELW 879 For the Beauty of the Earth**

**Greeting**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all

**C:** And also with you.

**\*Kyrie**



1, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.	Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.
2	Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.	Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.	Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.	Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray...

**C:** Amen.

**FIRST READING****Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Reader:** Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Lord’s Prayer**

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## MEAL

### \*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right...

### \*Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise!**

**May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,  
shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

### Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**\*Gospel Acclamation: Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises**

Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -  
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our

bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa  
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your

ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. *End*  
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,  
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

*Repeat stanza, then sing refrain*

I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.  
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

**Announcements**

*All events & announcements may be found in the back of the bulletin.*

**Offering**

*Please feel free to put cash or check in the offering plate. You can also donate through a text donation by texting the dollar amount to +12028166673.*

**Stewardship Matters—Living Together Generously:**

Building for the Future. It is through relationships that we encourage and support spiritual growth in ourselves and others. By our word and example, a place to start is within the relationships of our families, with children and youth, friends, neighbors and co-workers. It is not whether Jesus shows up, but that we remember to “be in the moment” and intentionally look for Him in the spaces of our lives. See Jesus in those with whom you engage in life.

**Offering Song: ELW 692 We Are an Offering**

**\*Offering Prayer**

A: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

**C: Amen.**

**A:** We are thankful for the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.

**C:** Now our minds are one.

**A:** Now we turn to the west where our grandfathers the Thunder Beings live. With lightning and thundering voices they bring with them the water that renews life. We bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to our Grandfathers, the Thunderers.

**C: Now our minds are one.**

**A:** We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest brother the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.

**C: Now our minds are one.**

**A:** We now turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

**C: Now our minds are one.**

**A:** We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it is not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

**C: Now our minds are one.**

**\*Exchange of Peace**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**\*HOLY GOSPEL**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John

**John 15:1-8**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Sermon:** Creation’s Gifts

**Rev. Karen Brau**

Live-tweeting and posting on social media is encouraged! Please use #FollowingJesus #RealChurch #EasterSeasonBeauty and don’t forget to tag @LutherPlace and @KarenBrau.

**Be a Gardener**

Be a gardener.  
Dig a ditch,  
toil and sweat,  
and turn the earth upside down  
and seek the deepness  
and water the plants in time.  
Continue this labor  
and make sweet floods to run  
and noble and abundant fruits  
to spring.

Take the food and drink  
and carry it to God  
as your true worship.

— Julian of Norwich

**\*Hymn of the Day: TFBF—98 Open Our Eyes**

Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch him,  
And say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord,  
And help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord,  
We want to see Jesus

**An African Creed** (A Masai version of Christianity's Nicene Creed)

**C: We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. God created humans and wanted humans to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in darkness, and now we know God in the light. God promised in the book of God's word, the bible, that God would save the world and all the nations and tribes.**

**We believe that God made good God's promise by sending God's son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies.**

**He is the Lord.**

**We believe that all our sins are forgiven through God. All who have faith in God must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love and share the bread together in love, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

(Adapted from, **Braiding Sweetgrass**, Robin Wall Kimmerer)

- A:** Today we have gathered and when we look upon the faces around us we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now let us bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People.
- C: Now our minds are one.**
- A:** We are thankful to our Mother the Earth, for she gives us everything that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she still continues to care for us, just as she has from the beginning of time. To our Mother, we send thanksgiving, love, and respect.
- C: Now our minds are one.**
- A:** We give thanks to all of the waters of the world for quenching our thirst, for providing strength and nurturing life for all beings. We know its power in many forms—waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans, snow and ice. We are grateful that the waters are still here and meeting their responsibility to the rest of Creation. Can we agree that water is important to our lives and bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to the Water?
- C: Now our minds are one.**