

Sacrament (Communion) Ceremony

by Chiefs Talks With Trees and Man Found Standing

The Communion or Sacrament Ceremony is a sacred Christian Ceremony that many indigenous peoples participate in. Though the majority of Native Americans that practice this Ceremony were converts from various European missionaries, in contemporary culture, the amalgamation of the Native American Spirituality and Christianity have given birth to new ceremonies that had not previously existed prior to European colonization.

The typical Communion service uses sacraments that represent the “body of Christ” and the “blood of Christ. The New Haven Native American Church (NHNAC) does not dictate what sacraments are used or how each Chapter may perform their Sacred Communion Ceremony; however, NHNAC may provide resources for those who wish to participate, or facilitate this special Ceremony. Here is an example of a Sacrament Ceremony to use as a guide.

After everyone has joined each other in the Sacred Circle, the Medicine Person in charge of the Ceremony may wish to read the following bible verses concerning the ordinance of Communion: Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:26, Luke 22:19, or others as appropriate to the situation. The Sacrament Ceremony begins with an invocation of the Great Spirit’s presence, a prayer of thanking the Creator for sending His only Begotten Son to be a sacrifice for His children, and blessings on the sacraments.

The Medicine Person overseeing the Ceremony should have a prayer after their fashion for each sacrament and ask the Great Spirit to bless the participants. (The traditional unleavened bread and wine may be substituted to any other appropriate sacraments. Substitutions for the bread may be a peyote button, crackers, herbs, and so forth. Substitutions for the wine may include grape juice, peyote tea, or other appropriate liquid.) The “Body of Christ” sacrament should be broken not cut, then should be prayed over, and finally distributed to the participants. Then the “Blood of Christ” should be poured, prayed over, and then distributed to the participants as the blood that was shed for our sins. Examples of the two prayers are as follows:

Bread or other Sacrament: Creator, we invite your Spirit to be upon us as we are in remembrance of your only Begotten Son’s, Jesus Christ, body which was given to us as the Sacrifice for All. We bless and partake of this bread (or other sacrament) as a witness to you that we do remember him and follow his teachings. Aho!

Wine or other Sacrament: Creator, we invite your Spirit to be upon us as we are in remembrance of Jesus Christ’s blood, which was shed for us and our sins. We bless and partake of this wine (or other sacrament) as a witness to you that we do remember him and follow his teachings. Aho!

After the ceremony is completed the participants may spend some time or the day in fellowship and deep contemplation of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God that was slain for the sins of the world. Sometimes the Ceremony of Humility (Foot Washing), is also preformed after the Sacrament Ceremony.

*There is no Certification for this Ceremony and any Medicine Person that feels called by the Holy Spirit to do so may perform this Ceremony.