

 UTO

LENT 2026

A Season of Gratitude and Reciprocity

*Panel Discussion Featuring Indigenous Episcopal Leaders discussing
Gratitude and Reciprocity as Inspired by The Serviceberry by Robin Wall Kimmerer*

March 24, 2026 - Webinar Handout

Video Available at: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/lent/>

Your Panelists:

The Reverend Isaiah “Shaneequa” Brokenleg (she/her) is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (Sicangu Nation). She is an Episcopal priest in the diocese of South Dakota. From a cultural perspective, she believes we are all related and, as such, we are all called to be “good relatives” to one another. As a winktè, Shaneequa is called to be a healer and move communities in the direction of positive change. From an academic perspective, she has a Masters of Public Health Degree from the University of Minnesota and Masters of Divinity degree from Church Divinity School of the Pacific. Shaneequa is the Interim Indigenous Missioner at the Episcopal Church. She is passionate about social justice, and working to end the structural oppression/violence that hurts us all. Shaneequa strives to live out her calling through her work, our church, her art, and in her life. You can reach Shaneequa at ibrokenleg@episcopalchurch.org

The Reverend Mary Crist (she/her) is the Coordinator of Indigenous Theological Education on the presiding bishop's team. She has been a priest since 2012 in the Diocese of Los Angeles after a long career in education as a professor and dean. Mary is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation (Amskapi Pikuni) located in Montana. She enjoys visionary projects that provide new options for people committed to serving God, especially those who have not been well served by traditional programs. She is the founding head of an Episcopal school in Texas and a school for intellectually gifted children in Massachusetts. Mary holds degrees from Columbia University NY (EdD), Claremont School of Theology (MDiv), MEd (Pan American University), and University of California Berkeley (BA). She enjoys the variety in her work with dioceses, Indigenous reservations, and seminaries. You can reach Mary at mcrist@episcopalchurch.org

Forrest S. Cuch (he/him) is an enrolled member of the Ute Indian Tribe. He was born and raised on the Uintah and Ouray Ute Indian Reservation in northeastern Utah. He has a Bachelors of Arts Degree in the Behavioral Sciences from Westminster College. Forrest has held many challenging jobs during his 38-year career having worked for several Indian tribes in various capacities to serving as director for Utah Division of Indian Affairs. He published, *A History of Utah's American Indians* (Utah State University Press, 2000). Forrest played a key role in the PBS/KUED sponsored curriculum project entitled: *We Shall Remain*, which features a video series of the histories of the Utah tribes with accompany materials. Currently retired, he provides lectures on healing trauma, Native American History, and conservation. In 2022, he was appointed to Jane Goodall's Legacy Foundation. He also recently co-authored a book entitled: *A Native Way of Giving* (Episcopal Church Publishing, 2022). If you would like to invite Forrest to speak about the Doctrine of Discovery at your church, please contact hmelton@episcopalchurch.org to be connected to Forrest.

<https://utahindians.org/archives/ute/history.html>

<https://thehistoryjunkie.com/ute-tribe-facts-and-history/>

The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton (she/her) is an Indigenous ordained priest in the Episcopal Church. As a Shackan First Nation person, she represents the Episcopal Church on the board of the Anglican Indigenous Network and was part of the project team for the Anglican Indigenous Network video series, "Prophetic Indigenous Voices on the Planetary Crisis." She has served on the Episcopal Church delegation to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and on the Presiding Bishop's delegation to United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26 and COP28). She has written articles addressing Indigenous concerns for the Anglican Theological Journal that include "The Necessity of Native American Autonomy for Successful Partnerships" (1994) and "When Creation is Sacred" (2021). She maintains her blog, Greening Spirit (www.greeningspirit.com), addressing environmental issues and social justice concerns towards renewing human relationships with creation and with one another. She is the founder of Circles of Color in the Diocese of Olympia. Rachel is currently the Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Everett, WA and served as the Theologian in Residence this October in the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide, Australia in October 2024. To read a recent article visit: https://covenant.livingchurch.org/2022/05/04/the-great-burning/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=the-great-burning

The Reverend Canon Heather L. Melton (moderator) is the Staff Officer for the United Thank Offering, a member of the Presiding Bishop's staff. She has worked for the church for over 20 years, half of those years in promoting gratitude through the work of UTO. She currently lives in New Mexico, which is home to 23 federally recognized tribes (and many other Indigenous people) and lives on land which once was a part of the Isleta Pueblo. She is also a certified trainer in The Daring Way™ with the Brené Brown Research and Education Group. hmelton@episcopalchurch.org
www.unitedthankoffering.org

Links to other information shared:

Information on The Episcopal Church and the **Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery** can be found here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/indigenousministries/repudiation-of-the-doctrine-of-discovery/>

Information on the **United Thank Offering**, an organization for all Episcopalians who wish to commit to a spiritual practice of gratitude, can be found here: www.unitedthankoffering.org/how. To learn more about the UTO grant process, through which 100% of thank offerings received by UTO are given away to support mission and ministry, visit www.unitedthankoffering.org/granting. To support this work you can donate online at www.unitedthankoffering.org/give.

Recommended Books from the Panelists and Moderators:

All links will take you to Bookshop.com, which supports independent bookstores with every purchase.

My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies by Resmaa Menakem is available [here](#).

The Four Vision Quests of Jesus by Steven Charleston is available [here](#).

A Native Way of Giving by Forrest S. Cuch and Michael Carney is available [here](#).

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer is available [here](#) and a young adult version [here](#).

Books for Children:

Kimotinâniwîw Itwêwina - Stolen Words by Melanie Florence is a dual language book in Plains Cree and English. It is available [here](#).

Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message by Chief Jake Swamp is available [here](#).

We are the Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom is available [here](#).