**Litany in Solidarity**

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Trinity United Church of Christ in Gary, IN

@GaryMillrat

Leader:

We are all breathing. We are all connected. We stand in solidarity with Standing Rock.

Mother Earth grounds our feet. If she crumbles we do as well

All:

It is time we respect our earth – the waters- the animals- and one another.

Leader:

We recognize our ancestors- those who were good stewards of the land- those who encouraged us

All:

We are grateful to those who came before us – who are with us in Spirit- may we honor them as we Stand with Standing Rock

Leader:

Give us courage to speak out – to challenge those who took authority that was not theirs to take

All:

May our voices blend with those at Standing Rock in calling for justice

Leader

Let us we honor the Six Directions, in the Spirit of the Lakota nation

Reader North

We turn to honor the North, which brings the cold winds of autumn and winter. These winds cause the leaves to fall, The North winds envelopes the earth in a blanket of snow allowing her to rest. Today as we Stand in Solidarity we face these winds as the buffalo. We face the harsh realities with our heads directly into the winds. We will endure. We will be patient- waiting for those who will come to our aid- but we will also gain the strength to move as one people. We will not stand still.

All:

Be with us, Spirit of the North.

Reader East

We turn to honor the East, where the day dawns. The light of day brings wisdom and awareness. May we see one another in the light of a new day. . As we stand in solidarity with the Water Protectors, may we truly see our strength in our diversity. May we have the clarity to see the role each of us has in our world

All:

Be with us Spirit of The East

Reader South

We turn to and honor the South, where the sun is at its highest. All of us, people, plants, animals, are warmed and strengthened.by the southern winds. The rays of the Sun nurture us, in all our endeavors. As we stand in solidarity, may we grow stronger together. May we rise as one to speak for justice.

All: Fortify us Spirit of the South.

Reader West

We turn to the West, where the sun sets and the day end. West is the direction which brings darkness. It is in the darkness that we face unknowns- yet we see the stars against a black sky. In the darkness we can dream, it is the power of change.

West is the source of water, the rivers, the streams.

As we stand in solidarity may we respect and protect the water for all of us.

All:

Spirit of the West, transform us.

Leader:

We lift our eyes upward- to the sky - to the possibilities -to the realization of the vastness of our world. To the knowledge we are part of the world and one another.

We acknowledge what is below us. The Earth. May we be grounded in our solidarity with one another. May we not forget those who lived in this earth before us. May we be faithful.

ALL:

I lift my voice with the water protectors.

I lift my voice so they know they are not alone.

I lift my voice to remain faithful to end persecution.

I lift my voice in thanksgiving to those who place themselves at the front lines.

I lift my voice to educate others to these acts of violence

I lift my voice as long as it takes.

The violence against the water protectors must end now. Today.