Introduction: the series is inspired by the condition of our world today as reported on the 5 o’clock news.

- Many Paths to Peace; a journey through world religions honors the Season of Peace a time when Dr Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi’s non-violent peace work is remembered.

- The first week we talked about Unity’s beliefs, then Buddhism, Hinduism and last week, Taoism.

- Founders of Unity, Myrtle and Charles Fillmore studied the religions of the world in their work creating the Unity Movement. Surely those religions influenced what we know and practice as Unity today.

The Drum Speaks

It was bitter cold in Fairbanks Alaska in 1953.

It was March and Winter Carnival Time.

Winter Carnival meant a large ice block structure would be erected on the frozen surface of the Chena River that flows through the middle of Fairbanks.

This ice block structure, with steps that rose above eye level, became the crowning place for the Winter Carnival Queen and her court.

It also became the stage for the tribal drums and dances of the Athapaskan and Eskimo peoples of the area.

That cold, sunny March day was the first time I heard the drum speak.

I was 8 and standing on the frozen ice of the Chena River watching the drummers and the dancers as they sang and moved.

Their unusual and haunting sounds, accompanied by the beating of their drums, deeply moved with me.
My brother and I must have been quite taken by this experience.

We would practice an imitation of what we had seen once home in the warmth of the living room.

We chanted and danced in the unique way of our Athabascan and Eskimo neighbors.

The tribal drum has called me ever since.

About two weeks ago I had the privilege of sitting in circle with the Medicine Women of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indian Tribe as they held drum practice.

What a powerful experience to join them in this ancient tradition of giving voice to the drum.

I am told, that just like humans, each drum, has its own unique voice and vibration.

And when played, the drummer and the drum seem to become one, just like the prayer and the prayer.

Today, I invite you to listen to the drum speak . . . the spirit of the drum has a message!

**The Medicine Women of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indian Tribe Drumming Team**
Honoring Those Who are from The First Nation

This is the part in our service where we wish to honor the ones among us whose heritage evolves from the people of the First Nation. Would those who fit this description please come forward?

Marianne Williamson

We would like to speak these words to you and to your ancestors through you. This was first offered/written in 1994 by Marianne Williamson who offers an apology to the Native Americans in a book entitled, *Illuminata: Thoughts, Prayers, Rites of Passage*. I invite the congregation wish to participate to please repeat these words after me:

“To the nations of the Native American Indians: as a citizen of the United States we say, please forgive us. On behalf of our ancestors and the group conscience of all America, we deeply apologize for the wrongs, so cruel, that have been inflicted upon your people.”

Let us be united.
Let us speak in harmony;
Common be our prayers
Common be our deliberations
Unified be our hearts,
Common be our intentions,
Perfect be our Unity
Consistent be our peace.

Meditation

We join with the earth and with each other

As responsible stewards of the land, the seas and the sky and all its inhabitants

We join with all the nations of the earth, especially our brothers and sisters of the First Nations as responsible stewards of the land, seas and sky and all the inhabitants of the earth

Silence

Great Spirit, we are joined together through and by you. We are Peace. We are One.