



## Did you know Jeremiah Evarts...

Jeremiah Evarts was a Christian missionary, reformer, and activist. A graduate of Yale, he was admitted to the Connecticut bar in 1806. In 1810, he moved to Boston to edit *The Panoplist*, a Congregationalist paper, later renamed *Missionary Herald* and published by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

In spite of chronic ill health, he traveled widely in the work of ABCFM and among its missions to the Cherokees, Chickasaws, and Choctaws. Jeremiah wrote under the pseudonym of 'William Penn' on the issue of fair treatment of Native Americans, combating the frontier mentality reflected in populist President Andrew Jackson's policy of displacing the tribes. Major periodicals often carried his essays which later were published in book form.

Here's a sample from a book of his collected essays, "The present crisis in the condition of the American Indians," published August 1, 1829.

"The character of our government, and of our country, may be deeply involved. Most certainly an indelible stigma will be fixed upon us, if, in the plenitude of our power, and in the pride of our superiority, we shall be guilty of manifest injustice to our weak and defenseless neighbors."

The campaign against the Indian Removal Act cost Jeremiah dearly through overwork and stress. He died of tuberculosis on May 10, 1831, in Charleston, South Carolina, and, "the Christian crusade against the removal of the Indians died with Evarts." Among his descendants was William M. Evarts, U.S. Secretary of State during the Hayes Administration (1877–1881).

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### Call To Worship

L: Redeem the time, O God, before it's gone and lost

**C: When hearty pilgrim souls measured the cost**

L: And made the long voyage with hopes of something new

**C: We come to worship expecting something new!**

### Invocation (in unison)

Almighty God, who was before all that is, who remains beside us, one who fills our lives with blessings, we celebrate this day the lives of the men and women known as Pilgrims. In Your singularity, they found commonness; in multiplicity of their world, they found diversity; in their chords and discords, they experienced a harmony in life. In their worship, they found strength and courage and hope. So may we worship You, knowing You expect the same from us. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard