The Mandan Indians, native peoples of what is now central North Dakota, were known as the People of the Willows. In 1804, they hosted the Lewis and Clark expedition for 146 days as they wintered along the Missouri River. Their chief, Sheheke, accompanied Lewis and Clark back to Washington D.C., and referred to Thomas Jefferson as “my brother.” Sheheke’s promise to Lewis and Clark was, “If we eat, you shall eat. If we starve, you will starve. Our wish is to be at peace with all.” The flute may be played on a wooden flute for a more authentic sound.

With a steady pulse throughout  \( \dot{\cdot} = \text{ca. 76} \)

Flute and Drum parts are on pages 15-16.

Duration: approx. 2:25

*Flute and Drum parts are on pages 15-16.

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People of the Willows,

offering a word of kindness and of peace.

People of the Willows,
sharing what they have with travelers in need.
we have traveled far from our home.

On the river,

we have traveled far from our home.

On the river,

farther we must go.

(continue two-measure pattern)
People of the Willows,

offering a word of kindness and of peace.

Peo-ple of the Wil-lows,
*Words of Mandan Chief Sheheke.

Sharing what they have with travelers in need.

*If we eat, if we eat, if we eat.
eat, you shall eat, you shall eat. For our wish is to be at peace with all. People of the Willows,
of fer-ing a word of kind-ness and of peace.

Peo-ple of the Wil-lows,

shar-ing what they have with trav-el-ers in
If we eat, if we eat, you shall need. On the river, we have traveled

On the river, we have traveled

On the river, we have traveled

On the river.

On the river.

On the river.

On the river.

For our wish is to eat, you shall eat. For our wish is to eat, you shall eat. For our wish is to eat, you shall eat. For our wish is to eat, you shall eat.
be at peace with all.

farther we must go.

farther we must go.

(continue two-measure pattern)

People of the Willows,

People of the Willows,

of-fer-ing a word of
People of the Willows,

kindness and of peace.

sharing what they have with travelers in need.

People of the Willows,
Wil - lows, Wil - low, Peo - ple of the Wil - lows, Wil - low, Peo - ple of the Wil - lows, Wil - low, Peo - ple of the Wil - lows, Wil - low, Peo - ple of the Wil - low,