



2018 Worship Resource

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Opening Sentences

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and make peace in it.

This is the hour that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and make peace in it.

This is the church that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and make peace in it.

This is the earth that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and make peace in it!

***Hymn** GTG #400 *I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say*

Gathering Prayer

How good it is, O God of peace,
that in the beginning you created light
and fashioned it into dancing things,
suns and moons and stars above.

As we watched them move and spin,
you taught us to keep time,
tapping our feet to the rhythm
of hour, day, week, and season.

How good it is that you gave us time,
so that in every time and in every way,
we might know your peace.

Send your Spirit to move our hearts
to dance in the steps of your Son,
Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

“I’ve got peace like a river. I’ve got love like an ocean. I’ve got joy like a fountain.” We’ve heard this song before.

It’s the song the children sing. They sing as they collect water from rivers polluted by war and waste. They sing from the decks of migrant ships as they float on oceans of uncertainty. They sing in between sips from the school water fountain in Flint, Michigan.

People of God, we have sinned. We have sinned against our children, the children of the world, and against one another. As children ourselves, both humble and bold, let us confess together.

Prayer of Confession

**Great God of peace,
we confess the ways we have sought division
rather than reconciliation.
We are too fond of our doors and fences
and all manner of things that keep family from family,
neighbor from neighbor, human from human.
We have sinned and we are sorry.
Teach us to live as peacemakers, as bridge builders,
as members of your beloved community,
gathered together in the love of Jesus Christ.**

Silence is kept.

The Kyrie eleison ("Lord, have mercy") may be sung or spoken.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

The declaration of forgiveness may be spoken at the baptismal font.

In the city of God there is a river flowing with living water, an ocean—pure and bright, and to the thirsty will be given water springing from the font of life. From these waters we are born. Into these waters we die. And up from these waters we are raised to new life in Christ Jesus.

Friends, hear and trust in the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, healed, and made whole. **Amen.**

***Response** GTG# 585 *Glory to God*

***The Peace**

With thanksgiving, we rejoice in the reconciliation found in the forgiveness and love of Jesus Christ. Let us therefore be reconciled with our neighbors and share signs of Christ's peace.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

***Response** GTG #448 *Peace of God Be with You*

Prayer for Illumination

Come, O Holy Spirit, and open our hearts to your word.
Open our ears to your Wisdom as she sings to us of your goodness.
Open our mouths so that we may breathe in your hope and breathe out your love. Open our minds that we might be challenged by your call.
Open us up, so that we may be opened up for the sake of the world. **Amen.**

Scripture

Sermon

***Hymn** GTG #425 *Son of God, Whose Heart is Peace*

*Affirmation of Faith

(From the Confession of Belhar, 10.5)

**We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ;
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,
that the church is witness both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

Invitation to Offering

As we collect the Peace & Global Witness Special Offering for the ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation, we give thanks for those working to bring civility to our public discourse, for those seeking to build relationships in war-torn countries, and for those working to end domestic abuse against women and children.

May God bless these ministries and may we be a blessing to the world through our gifts of prayer and financial support.

Offering

***Offertory Response** GTG #607 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

God of hope, we bring our offerings of peace before you,
trusting that you will use them toward the work of *shalom*,

the work of peace and wellbeing for all people.
May these gifts be multiplied throughout your church
as we work with you to repair the broken places
in our communities and in the world.
Make us faithful witnesses in all times and in all ways
to the peace found in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession or Lord's Supper

***Hymn** GTG #373 *O Day of Peace*

***Charge and Blessing**

Peace is active, not passive. Peace is doing, not waiting. So go out into the world and make peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, but strengthen the faint hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you, now and forever. **Amen.**

***Response** GTG# 623 *I've Got Peace Like a River*