



Walking in God's Path of Peace

An Intergenerational Worship Service
for the Sunday closest to Mr. Rogers Day (March 20)
or other occasions for teaching peace

*“As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready
to proclaim the gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15)*

Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. March 20th was his birthday and the day that the PC(USA) has chosen to highlight all we can learn from his work. This intergenerational worship service is a reflection and a call to action for how we serve our neighbors. As you plan how to join God at work in your neighborhood you can also look at our [Neighboring Sunday](#) resource. This worship service can be adapted to fit those plans.

Opening Sentences

(see Isa. 2:2–5)

*The leader takes off outside shoes
and puts on shoes to wear inside,
perhaps matching parament colors.*

Someday, the house of God
will stand on the highest mountain.
**People will come from every place
to learn how to walk in God's path.**

God will show us what is fair
and put an end to our fighting.
**People will turn their old weapons
into new tools for growing food.**

Come, people of God:
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Gathering Prayer

*The prayer may be offered in an echo style,
repeated by worshipers one line at a time.*

*Worshipers may be invited to lift their hands
(palms up and open) as a sign of prayer.*

Thank you, God,
for gathering us here
in your holy house—
to sing and pray,

to speak and listen,
to wonder and grow.
Teach us by your Word
and fill us with your Spirit
that we may go out
sharing your great love
with all our neighbors;
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Confession and Pardon

(see Rom. 6:1–10; Rom. 8:38)

The leader pours water into the baptismal font.

Because we share Jesus' baptism,
we know that nothing—
not even sin and death—
can separate us from God's love.

Trusting in God's love,
let us confess our sin.

There may be a time for silent prayer.

**Holy God, you have called us to love you
with heart, mind, soul, and strength,
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
But, if we are honest, we know
that sometimes we hurt each other
and fail to keep our promises to you.**

**Forgive us, God of grace.
Teach us, day by day,
to turn away from what is wrong
and turn to you in faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Hear the good news:
We are dead to sin and evil
and alive to God in Jesus.
Now we can walk in new life!

The leader lifts water from the baptismal font.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Invitation to Discipleship

(see John 13:15, 34–35)

One night after dinner
Jesus took a bowl and a towel
and started washing the disciples' feet.

*The leader may wash the feet of a child,
pouring water over them into a bowl
and then drying them with a towel.*

Then Jesus said to them:
I have given you an example.
Just as I have done, you must do.
Just as I have loved you,
you must love one another.

This is how everyone will know
that you are my disciples:
when you love one another.

Let us follow Jesus together,
showing God's love to all our neighbors.

Prayer for Illumination

(see Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15)

The leader may open and lift the Bible.

God of all beauty, goodness, and truth,
open our hearts to your Word
and guide our feet by your Spirit,
so we can shout and sing
from the mountaintops
the good news of your peace;
through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

(excerpted from A Brief Statement of Faith)

*The following may be used as a response
throughout the affirmation of faith
as a way to engage younger worshipers:*

God is faithful still. **We trust in God.**

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.

God is faithful still. **We trust in God.**

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

God is faithful still. **We trust in God.**

In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sara chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.

God is faithful still. **We trust in God.**

Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,

God is faithful still. **We trust in God.**

Prayers of Intercession

(see Luke 1:68, 78–79)

*Before or after the worship service,
people may be invited to take a walk
in the neighborhood around the church,
taking note of particular concerns and needs
that may be included in these intercessions.*

*The prayers of intercession may be led
from the middle of the congregation.*

*Worshippers may be invited to lift their hands
(palms up and open) as a sign of prayer.*

O Lord our God, we bless you
because you have promised
to help and save your people.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for neighbors who are in need ...

Help everyone to find healthy food,
medical care, and good places to live.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for neighbors who are in trouble ...

Deliver them from anything evil
and keep them safe from every danger.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for neighbors who are sad or lonely ...

Support them with your compassion
and surround them with community.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for neighbors who are sick or suffering ...

Pour out your healing power upon them
to strengthen them in their weakness.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Other intercessions may be included here.

O Lord our God, let your help and healing
shine on us like the sunrise.

Give light to those who wait in darkness
and guide us on your path of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

(see Mic. 6:8)

*The offering for this day may include
gifts of shoes and socks for people in need
or donations to a local peacemaking program.*

God shows us what is good.
And what does the Lord ask of us?
To do what is right, to be kind,
and to walk humbly with our God.

Let us offer our lives and our gifts
to the God who gives us life.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*After the offering has been received
the leader may pray at the communion table.*

*When the Lord's Supper is celebrated,
this prayer may be omitted.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thank you, God, for all your gifts—
food and shelter, peace and safety,
friends and family, life and health.
Especially we thank you for Jesus,
who teaches us how to serve you
and love our neighbors as ourselves.
Now send us out from this place
to spread the good news of peace
with the world you love so much.
Through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing and Charge

(see Num. 6:24–26; Eph. 6:15)

*The leader takes off inside shoes
and puts on shoes to wear outside,
then raises hands as a sign of blessing.*

May God bless you and keep you safe.
May God smile on you with grace.
May God watch over you always
and give you peace. **Amen.**

Like shoes for your feet
put on whatever will make you ready
to go and tell everyone

the good news of God's peace.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn Suggestions

GTG = Glory to God (2013)

PH = Presbyterian Hymnal (1990)

Go, My Children, with My Blessing	GTG 547
Guide My Feet	GTG 741, PH 354
Hope of the World	GTG 734, PH 360
Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love	GTG 203, PH 367
Lead Me, Guide Me	GTG 740
Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song	GTG 737
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need	GTG 803, PH 172
O God, You Are My God (Step by Step)	GTG 743
Spirit, Open My Heart	GTG 692
To My Precious Lord	GTG 704
Together We Serve	GTG 767
We Will Walk with God	GTG 742
When the Poor Ones	GTG 762, PH 407
Will You Let Me Be Your Servant	GTG 727

In 2022 a hymn was created for Mr. Rogers Day entitled [Jesus, Teach Us to Be Neighbors](#). It can be found at www.pcusa.org/mrogers with all the additional Mr. Rogers Day resources, activity ideas, coloring page, and curriculum pieces. The text, accompaniment, and chords are available along with several recordings of the hymn.

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