

## ORDER OF WORSHIP – March 26, 2023 US Congregations

### WALKING IN GOD'S PATH OF PEACE

*(Adapted from the PC(USA) Service by David Gambrell. It is intended to be intergenerational, a call to action for how we serve our neighbors, based on the pastoral work of Rev. Fred Rogers, who said, modeled, and sang on television: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" Some of Fred's broadcasts can be seen on YouTube.)*

Announcements and the Passing of the Peace may be placed according to the custom of the congregation. Hymn numbers are given for *Glory to God (GtG)* and *The Presbyterian Hymnal (PH)*.

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#### Call to Worship (Isaiah 2:2-5)

Leader: Someday, the house of God will stand on the highest mountain.

**All:** *People will come from every place to learn how to walk in God's path.*

Leader: God will show us what is fair and put an end to our fighting.

**All:** *People will turn their old weapons into new tools for growing food.*

Leader: Come, people of God:

**All:** *Let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

**Hymn:** Holy, Holy, Holy (*GtG* # 1; *PH* # 138)

#### Opening Prayer *(may be repeated by All – one line at a time, following the Leader)*

Leader: Thank you, God, (All repeat)  
for gathering us here (All repeat)  
in your holy house- (All repeat)  
to sing and pray, (All repeat)  
to speak and listen, (All repeat)  
to wonder and grow. (All repeat)  
Teach us by your Word (All repeat)  
and fill us with your Spirit (All repeat)  
that we may go out (All repeat)  
sharing your great love (All repeat)  
with all our neighbors; (All repeat)  
in Jesus' name. (All: AMEN.)

#### Confession and Pardon (Romans 6:1-10; Romans 8:38)

*(the leader pours water into the baptismal font)*

Leader:

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)*

**All:** *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.*

Leader: 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.

**All:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Response:** [Any response that offers “Glory to God,” examples: *GtG 581, 582; PH 579, 576*]

**Prayer for Illumination** (Isaiah 52:7, Romans 10:15)

*(the leader may open and lift the Bible)*

Leader: 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 Christ our Lord.

**All:** *Amen.*

**Scripture Reading:** Colossians 2:12-17

**Sermon**

**Invitation to Discipleship** (John 13:15, 34-35)

Leader: One night after dinner, Jesus took a bowl and a towel and started washing the disciples' feet. *[May have a bowl of water and a towel; wet the towel and wring it out in front of the people.]*

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.

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

**Hymn:** Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (*GtG 203, PH 367*)

**Invitation to Offering** (Micah 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.)*

Leader: 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 give us life.

**Doxology** (*GtG 606, PH 592*)

## Prayers of the People (Thanksgiving and Intercession)

Leader: 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.

O Lord our God, we bless you  
because you have promised to help and save your people.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All:** *hear our prayer.*

Leader: We pray for neighbors who are in need ... (silent or spoken individual prayers)

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... (silent or spoken individual prayers)

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... (silent or spoken individual prayers)

Support them with your compassion, and surround them with community.

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.

Now send us out from this place to spread the good news of peacemaking  
with the world you love so much. Through Jesus Christ we pray. *Amen.*

**Hymn:** Help Us Accept Each Other (*GlG 371, PH 218*)

**Blessing and Charge** (Numbers 6:24-26; Ephesians 6:15)

Leader: 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 serve your neighbor.

(\* Note: in each of his TV shows, Fred Rogers entered and removed his shoes, putting on house shoes or slippers. At the end, he left, after putting on his outdoor shoes.)