

COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Second Sunday of Easter
"Neighboring Sunday"*

*April 7, 2024
10:00 AM*

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

On the Sunday closest to his birthday, which is March 20, Presbyterians across the United States recognize the life and legacy of Presbyterian minister and iconic children’s television host Fred Rogers. Better known as “**Mr. Rogers**,” Fred was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and 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.

This worship service is a reflection on the work of Fred Rogers and a call to action for serving our neighbors.

PRELUDE

Variations on "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Lasky

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Men's Breakfast at Robin Hood, Wednesday (4/10) at 8:30 AM.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP *(Isaiah 2:2-5)*

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

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

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

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

ONE: Come, people of God:

MANY: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

HYMN

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**That Easter day with joy was bright;
The sun shone out with fairer light
When, to their longing eyes restored,
The apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**He bade them see his hands, his side,
Where yet the glorious wounds abide,
The tokens true which made it plain
Their Lord indeed was risen again.**

**From every weapon death can wield,
Your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide.**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

MANY: Thanks be to God. Hallelujah!

HYMN

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me *GLORY TO GOD*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 133:1-3

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 10:25-29, 37

SERMON

The Sore Thumb of the Neighborhood

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

Jesus, Teach Us to Be Neighbors

MC FEELY

**Jesus, teach us to be neighbors,
Living, loving side by side,
Hands for helping one another,
Arms of welcome, open wide.**

**Ever learning, ever growing,
Jesus, teach us all to be
Children of the new creation,
Joined in true community.**

**Jesus, teach us to be neighbors,
Giving, serving those in need,
Making peace and doing justice,
Showing faith by word and deed.**

**Ever learning, ever growing,
Jesus, teach us all to be
Children of the new creation,
Where we are on family.**

**Jesus, teach us to be neighbors,
Working, praying for the day
When the Lamb will be the Shepherd,
When our tears are washed away.**

**Ever learning, ever growing,
Jesus, teach us all to be
Children of the new creation,
Singing praise in harmony.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



MUSICAL OFFERING

We Are the Body of Christ

Lund

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Sharing of Bread and Wine

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Following each petition, please join in responding with
"Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."*

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

MANY: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

ONE: We pray for neighbors who are in need... Help everyone to find healthy food, medical care, and good places to live.

MANY: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

ONE: We pray for neighbors who are in trouble... Deliver them from anything evil and keep them safe from every danger.

MANY: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

ONE: We pray for neighbors who are sad or lonely... Support them with your compassion and surround them with community.

MANY: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

ONE: We pray for neighbors who are sick or suffering... Pour out your healing power upon them to strengthen them in their weakness.

MANY: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Our joys and concerns will be lifted here.

ONE: 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, who taught his followers to pray like this:

MANY: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

IN DIR IST FREUDE

Day of delight and beauty unbounded,

Tell the news, the gospel spread!

Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,

Praise Christ risen from the dead!

**Sing of the sun from darkness appearing;
Sing of the seed from barren earth greening;
Sing of creation, alleluia!
Sing of the stream from Jesus' side flowing;
Sing of the saints in water made holy;
Sing of salvation, alleluia!**

**Day of delight and beauty unbounded,
Tell the news, the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,
Praise Christ risen from the dead!**

Sing now of mourning turned into dancing;

Sing now the mystery, hope of our glory;

Sing with thanksgiving, alleluia!

Sing now of fasting turned into feasting;

Sing the Lord's favor lasting forever;

Sing, all things living, alleluia!

**Day of delight and beauty unbounded,
Tell the news, the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,
Praise Christ risen from the dead!**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: 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.

MANY: **Amen.**

ONE: Like shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to go and tell everyone the good news of God's peace.

MANY: **Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!**

POSTLUDE

Alleluia

Lasky

To be sung off camera

SONG OF JOY

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Fred Rogers

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,

A beautiful day for a neighbor.

Would you be mine? Could you be mine?

It's a neighborly day in this beauty wood

A neighborly day for a beauty

Would you be mine? Could you be mine?

**I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you!
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.
So, let's make the most of this beautiful day,
Since we're together, we might as well say:
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?
Won't you be my neighbor?
Won't you please, won't you please?
Please, won't you be my neighbor?**

CLG QUESTIONS:

1. Developmental psychologist Margaret McFarland was Fred Rogers' teacher, mentor and adviser on *The Neighborhood* for over thirty years. When Fred first began his study of child development, McFarland helped him get in touch with his own childhood memories and feelings. She would repeatedly use the phrase, "Anything human is mentionable, and anything mentionable is manageable." Simply put, it is OK to experience hard feelings openly, and more importantly, when people do this, they find healthier ways to cope. What can we learn about our own coping capability from the wisdom of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood?
2. Fred Rogers was a singular man who overcame years of childhood bullying and illness in order to live out his unique calling. Rogers' wife of over 50 years, Joanne, has shared that when Fred was dying of stomach cancer, he often read the passage in Matthew 25 about the sheep and the goats. "Am I a sheep?" he would ask Joanne, fearing he hadn't accomplished enough. "Fred," she replied, "if anyone is a sheep, then you are." What does this mean to you? How can we be sheep in this neighborhood?

3. In her excellent review of Maxwell King's *The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers*, writer D. L. Mayfield says, "The vision of Fred Rogers resulted in something great, like his television program. Yet his unwavering commitments also kept in him in moderate conflict with associates and friends. He was always something of a controversial figure, never quite as adored as we would think. He was exacting in his broadcasting standards, with every word carefully chosen to minimize any confusion and anxiety for the children watching. Because he refused to advertise to children, finding it immoral, he lost out on lucrative financial opportunities, to say nothing of the chance to expand his audience. He disappointed people who wished his show were more political. Later, he was routinely criticized for helping create the 'entitled' generation." What is your view of Mr. Rogers?
4. Are there parallels that can be drawn between the life of Fred Rogers and the witness of Jesus Christ to the love of God for "the least of these?"

WORSHIP NOTES:

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Office of Theology and Worship partnered with the Office of Christian Formation to provide resources for celebrating **Mr. Rogers Day**. The elements of this service are found in [Walking in God's Path of Peace: Intergenerational Worship](#), a Quiksheet produced by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. www.pcusa.org.

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