



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

Children: Instruments of Peace

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

The child has the breath and spirit of life. The child, present here and now, is the past embodied and the future becoming. The child wants to survive, to be protected, to develop. The child needs peace with justice and freedom.

(Children: Instruments of Peace, 1992 Children's Week Celebration Guide, NCCP)

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today is a gift from God.

People: That is why we call it present.

Leader: Our children are gifts from God.

People: That is why we consider them a blessing.

Leader: God has called us to be nurturers, teachers and learners.

People: That is why we welcome the opportunity to nurture, to teach and to learn, to love and to be loved.

Leader: God has called us today to give thanks for the gift of each other's presence, and for God's unfailing love.

INVOCATION

Leader: We believe in a loving God, whose Word sustains our lives that we may continue to do God's work.

All: God is Life!

Leader: We believe in God's Son among us who brought the seed of life's renewal. He lived with the poor to show the meaning of love.

All: Jesus Christ is our Friend!

Leader: We believe in the Spirit of Life who makes us one with God, whose strength and energy renews our own.

All: The Spirit is Love! Come Spirit of Love! Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE

All Things Bright and Beautiful

HFJ 229/Children Praise God 100

Chorus:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. *(Chorus)*

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky. *(Chorus)*

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. *(Chorus)*

A LITANY FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Children are natural workers for peace and justice. They are sticklers for rules, compassionate towards their playmates, especially to those who are hurt, sad or just seem left out.

God, help us work for peace and justice.

Children have an innate sense of right and wrong, and without compulsion speak to our face about it. Children share more than they hoard.

God, help us work for peace and justice.

We can learn a lot about peace and justice from children, but despite this indispensable resource for learning, we still live in a society, a country, steeped in un-peace and injustice.

God, help us work for peace and justice.

The most affected by this state of affairs are the children, especially the poor children. The budgets for education, health and social services are being cut in favor of debt servicing and military spending. Many children cannot go to school, and if they are in school, resources are not adequate to maximize learning. Many children die of curable diseases and many more are malnourished.

God, help us work for peace and justice.

We have to learn from our children in order that all of us, with the children, engage in this work for peace and justice. With the children to lead us in this journey, we will surely be triumphant.

Walk on, children of God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Liturgist: As learners of children, workers with and for the children for peace and justice, let us therefore greet each other with God's peace.

***SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 32: 16-18

Matthew 5: 9

Proverbs 20: 11

MESSAGE THROUGH SONG

Sa Aking Pagdating

Daigdig ba'y payapa, paligid ba'y sagana?
Anong buhay ang naghihintay, sa aking pagdating?
Sariwa ba ang hangin na aking lalanghapin?

Malinis ba ang tubig sa uhaw ko'y papatid?

Sana'y ligtas ang mundong daratnan, sana'y masigla ang kapaligiran
Pagkai'y sapat, malusog na katawan, at isang masayang tahanan
'Pagkat ako ay bahagi ng susunod na salinlahi, isang bagong binhi ng pag-asa
Magtutuloy ng kasaysayan, dudugtong sa nakalipas
Lilikha ng 'sang bagong bukas.... hmmm hmmm hmmm-hmm...

Mainit ba ang yakap

Pagmamahal bang sapat ang asalubong sa araw ng aking pagdating

Sana'y ligtas ang mundongagalawan, sana'y masigla ang kapaligiran
Pagkai'y sapat, malusog na katawan, at isang masayang tahanan
'Pagkat ako ay bahagi ng susunod na salinlahi, isang bagong binhi ng pag-asa
Magtutuloy ng kasaysayan, dudugtong sa nakalipas
Lilikha ng 'sang bagong bukas.... hmmm hmmm hmmm-hmm...

Daigdig ba'y payapa, paligid ba'y sagana?

Anong bukas ang naghihintay, sa aking pagdating?

Rosas ng Digma 2, MusikangBayan

MESSAGE THROUGH THE SPOKEN WORD

RECITING OF THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE

In One God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning and fulfillment to all creation.

That in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history.

That in the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE

That persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in community with God, with other persons and with all creation.

That, by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith, they are redeemed in Jesus Christ.

That being entrusted with God's creation, they are called to participate in the establishment of a just and compassionate social order.

WE BELIEVE

That the Church is the one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE

That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

WE BELIEVE

That God is at work to make each person a new being in Christ, and the whole world God's Kingdom in which love, justice and peace prevail.

That the Kingdom of God is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

WE BELIEVE

That the resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and gives assurance of life after death,

And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER (Minister)

RESPONSE

Into My Heart

Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

CALL TO OFFERING

Liturgist: Let us now offer our lives and means and supplications before our God as our act of commitment to save our children and our world.

(Children: Instruments of Peace, 1992 Children's Week Celebration Guide, NCCP)

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God the Source of Life and Birth

Praise God the Source of Life and Birth, praise God the Word who came to earth.

Praise God the Spirit, Holy Flame, all honor glory to God's name. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Liturgist)

Dear God, accept our offering of lives, means and supplications. Transform these into blessings on those we serve today, especially as we do your work of saving our children and our world. Amen.

*SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus Loves Me!

HFJ 249/Children Praise God 33

Jesus love me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee, saying, "Let them come to me." *(Refrain)*

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. *(Refrain)*

***THE BLESSING** (in unison)

O God, as a Mother teaches her children,

You guide, sustain and strengthen us.

We come before you with gratitude

for the gift of our children

for the joy that they bring into our lives and our communities of faith,

and for the grace with which you surround them and each one of us.

As a Father nurtures his children,

so you continually look upon us with compassion and goodness.

Pour out your Spirit upon us.

Enable us to abound in love as we serve you and your people.

Enable us to be channels of your love and peace

that we may, with the children to lead us, work for peace and justice.

Amen and amen.

(Adapted from "Blessings of Children", *Chalice Hymnal*, 364)

SUNG RESPONSE

Lumakad sa Liwanag ng Dios

Lumakad sa liwanag ng Dios, lumakad sa liwanag ng Dios!

Lumakad sa liwanag ng Dios, lumakad sa liwanag ng Dios!

Lumalakad, lakad, lumalakad hoo, lumakad sa liwanag ng Dios!