

MARCH 20, 2022

10:00 A.M

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Mr. Rogers Day**

PRELUDE

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God gives us one day at a time:

Long enough for laughter to follow any tears;

Deep enough for prayer and silence to dance together;

Time enough to help someone in need;

Plenty of time to notice beauty and praise the Maker;

Sufficient time to build a bridge for forgiveness

or tear down a wall of resentment;

The right time to embrace friends, smile at strangers,

play with children, sing praise to God.

Praise God for this day we are given.

OPENING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we progress through Lent, our Father,

enable us to deepen our spiritual lives.

Teach us to pray rightly that we may know

the blessing of being rooted and grounded in your Spirit.

Focus our minds upon Christ, for it is in him

that we see the pattern we are to follow.

Thus, it is in Jesus' name that we now offer the prayer

he taught his disciples to say:

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, forever. Amen.

***HYMN 355**

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

ACT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

(Psalm 34:18) Let us admit our brokenness to God. Please pray with me.

Lord, I have betrayed you by following my own way.

I have denied you by fearing to follow yours.

And I have mocked you by not taking your death seriously.

Lord, I am lost. Let your forgiveness find me.

Hold me in your strong arms and give me your new life.

Live in me and with me day by day,

that together we may make a world that is new.

Hear the words of Psalm 103: "The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He does not deal with us according to our sins,

nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him."

We thank God for abundant mercy and grace! Amen.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN & YOUTH

*Children 1st grade and younger may go to the Children's Room after this time,
but know that all children are welcome in worship.*

1ST HANDMADE BLANKETS

2ND WINDOWS IN YOUR HOME

3RD FOOD IN YOUR FREEZER

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE & PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

What is a prophet, (spell) according to the Bible?

One who tells the people what God wants them to know and do.

**When I imagine what a prophet looks like or how he speaks,
what comes to mind is those men of the Old Testament – Isaiah,
Jeremiah, Jonah, Micah – those persons of faith who preached
gloom, doom, and destruction for those ancient Israelites who had
wandered from God's will into various sins.**

I do believe we have prophets in our midst today. However, I never considered a prophet would be someone who wore a red, cardigan sweater and spent his life sharing God with children and consequently their parents without mentioning God, but that is exactly who Fred McFeely Rogers did for years on the public television show Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood.

Mr. Rogers, was actually, Rev. Rogers and when he graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was ordained by the Northern stream of our Presbyterian Church, they requested that continue his ministry on television. Consequently, Public Television's audience became Rev. Rogers' congregation.

This morning, I thought we would look at a few of this prophet's quotes and their inspiration from Scripture.

(Take the insert) and follow along

13-15 One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that he would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus intervened: "Let the children alone, don't prevent them from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these." After laying hands on them, he left. Matthew 19:13-15 The Message

"Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero. "

"Real strength has to do with helping others." Fred Rogers

Jesus understood that children, like women, were not valued in his world and considered property. He makes it clear to his disciples that children were welcome in God's kingdom, and no one should stand in the way of those little ones coming to understand who God is in each of their lives.

Mr. Rogers also understood that we can learn from children and their honesty. So those who help people are strong role models for children and are heroes in young ones' eyes when those adults come to a child's aid.

We all remember with fondness when our children or grandchildren think we could do no wrong and new everything. Then, they hit puberty.

Including Bott, I have pastored 8 churches in my 36-year career so, believe me I am not blowing smoke when I say you do an incredible job of welcoming and including children and young people. You take seriously those vows you take at baptisms to assist parents in raising those new members of the family of God.

I witnessed just last week ... at church and later at the Bible study ...

Keep that Spirit filled attitude to be strong heroes helping everyone, especially the children AND helping them to know about Jesus.

(Take your insert ...)

3-7 If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end.

Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly, and the best of the three is love.

I Corinthians 13:3-7 & 13b The Message

"Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now."

"Mutual caring relationships require kindness and patience, tolerance, optimism, joy in the other's achievements, confidence in oneself, and the ability to give without undue thought of gain." Fred Rogers

We all know Paul's instructions to the church at Corinth. Couples "love" to have this passage shared at their weddings. What many do not realize that in the Greek language there were different words for love depending on the type about which you were speaking.

Eros – Intimate love between a couple

Filial – Between family and friends

Agape – God's perfect love

God's love (quote passage) is a perfect state of caring, but for us it is a verb, a struggle to love like God and to accept others where they are in their individual journey.

Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, which you remember, Christians are to strive for ALL the fruits. Notice that Mr. Rogers spoke about mutual caring relationship as also involving kindness and patience, tolerance, optimism, joy, which are also listed in Galatians as "fruits of the Spirit."

Remember this favorite prophet of mine, Mr. Rogers, never mentions his faith and commitment to God in Christ, but spoke, showed, and lived his understanding of God.

(Look at your insert one final time.)

²¹ At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

²² Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven."

Matthew 18:21-22 The Message

"Forgiveness is a strange thing. It can sometimes be easier to forgive our enemies than our friends. It can be hardest of all to forgive people we love. Like all of life's important coping skills, the ability to forgive and the capacity to let go of resentments most likely take root very early in our lives."

"The only thing evil can't stand is forgiveness." Fred Rogers

Used 735 times (54 times in [the book of Revelation](#) alone), Seven is the number of completeness and [perfection](#) (both physical and spiritual). It derives much of its meaning from being tied directly to God's creation of all things.

Seventy has a sacred meaning in the Bible that is made up of the factors of two perfect numbers, seven (representing perfection) and ten (representing completeness and God's law).

So, when Jesus tells Peter to forgive 7 x 70 we forgive until we reach perfection is actual forgiveness in our hearts, not just in our words.

Not easy, especially with those we love.

Let us remember that while Judas is often the only one spoken about with betrayal and in need of forgiveness. We need to recall that the other 11 denied, ran, hid, betrayed in their own way when Jesus needed them most.

But part of forgiveness is letting go of resentments and finally forgiving in our hearts,

If you have not seen [A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood](#) (2019), starring [Tom Hanks](#).

It is about the relationship between Fred Rogers and a journalist who is asked to write a piece about Mr. Rogers for Vogue magazine. The other 49 people being interviewed for the piece titled "The 50 most Influential People" refused to be interviewed by the journalist who has a reputation for crucifying the people he writes about.

Yet, Mr. Rogers requests the hateful journalist, and the friendship leads the journalist to allow forgiveness to take root in his heart.

So, my friends
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?

So, neighbors, what do you need to “work on” this Lent

- Forgiving someone
- Loving someone
- Being a strong, hero, by helping someone

REFLECT ON THAT FOR JUST A MOMENT

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** “The Apostles’ Creed” (Back of Hymnal)

***OFFERING**

(We currently DO NOT pass the offering plates. You may place your gifts in the offering plates at both entrances to the sanctuary.)

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LENTEN WREATH

The Liles' Family

***HYMN 237 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”**

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Go now into the world. Go now, following the example of our Lord Jesus.

May our lives reflect God's love and grace.

May our lives reflect the life and teachings of Jesus.

May we continue this Lenten journey,

ever growing closer to Jesus Christ

and ever growing more perfect in God's love.

Go now in God's peace. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

*** Please stand, as you are able.**

SERMON SOURCES

Wikipedia/Britannica Sermon

Words to Mr. Rogers theme song

source: <https://www.lyricsondemand.com/tvthemes/mrrogersneighborhoodlyrics.html>

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Invocation Homiletics Online

Call to Worship Homiletics Online

Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession

Taken from *Be Our Freedom, Lord*, ed. Terry C. Falla.

Words of Assurance Homiletics Online

Benediction Homiletics Online