



Children's Sermon

Supplies:

- Mission co-worker prayer cards that can be ordered by emailing cynthia.rubin@pcusa.org or nicole.gerkins@pcusa.org, or by calling (800) 728-7228, ext. 5065.
- Map of the world or a globe

Notes:

If you are presenting this Children's Sermon or receiving the Peace & Global Witness Offering on a day other than World Communion Sunday (the first Sunday in October), you can lead it in anticipation of gathering around the table on World Communion Sunday.

If your children participated in the Older Children's Lesson Plan and decorated the communion cloth with symbols of peace and words for peace in a variety of languages, you might prefer to make the focus of the children's sermon about them sharing the symbols of peace and words of peace with the younger children and the congregation.

Good morning!

I want to invite you all to come with me to a spot in the sanctuary that is particularly important in our worship today. Have you heard that today is a special Sunday? (*Yes! It's World Communion Sunday!*)

Invite the children to gather around the communion table.

Today, all around the world, Christians are gathering around the communion table as we celebrate our unity in Christ. Today is also the day we receive a Special Offering called the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Can you tell by the name what this offering goes to?

Break down the name with the children:

- *Peace-ministries that work toward peace-*
- *Global-worldwide*
- *Witness-sharing the love of Christ, telling of God's work*

The money that's given through this offering today will go to three different places:

- 25 percent stays here in our community (*in a sentence or two, share which ministry/organization will be receiving the offering in your community*),
- 25 percent goes to the presbytery, a grouping of Presbyterian churches in our region, to use for ministries of peace and justice, and
- 50 percent goes to our denomination to be used for ministries of peace and justice all over the world.



Children's Sermon (*continued*)

One of the ministries our money will go toward is the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Our denomination supports the work of people from other countries working for peace in their countries and sometimes sends mission co-workers—men and women from the United States to support their work toward peace and for justice all over the world.

I have a few cards and a map here. Let's read about a few of our mission co-workers and see if we can find where they live and work on our map.

Show and summarize 1–3 cards, inviting children to find the country on the map.

So the money we give today helps ministries like these happen all over the world.

But what about us? Where do we live? *Invite the children to find their state on the map.*

In 2 Thessalonians, chapter 3, Paul writes that he prays for the Lord to give peace at all times and in all ways. Working for peace isn't just something that's done in other places. How can we be people who work for peace right here in our families and in our community? *Invite children to share their thoughts.*

Yes! You are peacemakers too!

Let's pray together (*use this prayer or one of your own*):

God, you are a God of peace. Thank you for all those who are doing the good work of building peace in the world. You call each of us to offer peace at all times and in all ways. Be with us as we work for peace in our families, our community, and the world. Amen.

Jenna Campbell is a Certified Christian Educator serving as the Director of Children and Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma.