

# Honor the *Sacredness* of Work



Labor Day 2013 • Interfaith Worker Justice • [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org)

## Honor the Teachers

Leader: As our children prepare to go back to school, we want to take a few moments to honor and pray for our community's teachers.

**All: We know that when we "train up a child in the way he or she should go,"**

Leader: "When the child is old, he or she will not turn from it." (Prov. 22:6)

**All: Teachers help us in training up our children.**

Leader: Day in and day out, our teachers must inspire and motivate.

**All: Few of us could face a classroom of children each and every school day.**

Leader: When our children show up at school unprepared to learn,

**All: We give thanks for the teachers who inspire and teach them anyway.**

Leader: When our children act out and disrespect the teachers and one another,

**All: We give thanks for teachers' patience and maturity.**

Leader: When our children are hurting or sad,

**All: We give thanks for teachers' kindness and concern.**

Leader: When classrooms are jammed and supplies short,

**All: We thank teachers for their generosity and perseverance.**

Leader: When some would blame the nation's education woes and state budget crises on front-line teachers,

**All: We stand with teachers, honoring their gifts and pledging our support.**

Leader: Throughout our nation's history, congregations have encouraged education and supported teachers.

**All: We renew our support for the children in our congregation and community, the parents who partner with them in learning and the teachers who do God's work of instilling knowledge and values in our children. O God, place your loving hands around the teachers and instill in them your patience and wisdom. Amen.**