



Murray Presbyterian Church

*January 19, 2025 10am Worship
Second Sunday After Epiphany*

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting One Another Ringing of the Tower Bell

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship:

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.

**People: Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.**

Leader: Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

**People: The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the desert.

**People: Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.**

Leader: Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,

**People: Will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.**

--Psalm 126

*Hymn: “Our Great Savior”

(WC 89, vv.1-3, 5)

Prayer of Confession

Longsuffering God, we humbly confess that we have sold our souls to become the very rich against whom Jesus pronounced “woes,” and have ignored and even increased the sufferings of the lowly and oppressed whom Jesus called “blessed.” Forgive us our ungodly values, we pray, and give us the grace to forsake the images of success that inspire the world, and to claim as our status symbol your Suffering Servant. In his name we pray. Amen

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response: “Gloria Patri”

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: “Sorrowing in Anticipation”
(Upside Down Kingdom, pt.3)

*Hymn: “Let Your Heart Be Broken” (WC 429)

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Offering

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” (WC 638)

*Benediction and Benediction Response

About the Hymn

Our closing hymn, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," fits with the theme of this morning's message. It was written by Thomas A. Dorsey, sometimes called "the father of Black Gospel music," in the aftermath of a terrible personal loss. While he was leading music at an out-of-town revival, his wife went into labor, but she and the infant son died in childbirth. Soon thereafter, Dorsey composed "Precious Lord," and this is what he wrote about it: "The Lord gave me these words and melody, He also healed my spirit. I learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest, and when we are most open to His restoring power. And so I go on living for God willingly and joyfully, until that day comes when He will take me and gently lead me home."

We also sing it in recognition of tomorrow's holiday honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was known to be his favorite hymn. In fact, the very last words he spoke, just before being shot, were asking a musician to sing it at a gathering he was to attend later that evening. It was sung at his funeral by Mahalia Jackson and continues to be used as the closing number at the Kennedy Center's annual Martin Luther King Day concert.

*Please Stand if Able

WC: Worshiping Church Hymnal (found on seat) PH: Presbyterian Hymnal (found in pew rack)

Announcements

Annual Meeting

The Session has called the annual congregational meeting for next Sunday, January 26, 2025, immediately following morning worship in the sanctuary. This meeting is called for the purposes of receiving reports from congregational boards and committees, reviewing the year-end financial report, receiving the budget adopted by the session, reviewing the pastor's terms of call, and receiving and acting upon the report of the Nominating Committee to elect officers for the coming year. Anyone responsible for submitting a report should turn it into the church office no later than January 19 (preferably as a Word document sent to murray.presbyterian@gmail.com).

Winter Coat Drive

MPC Missions & Outreach Committee is asking for your help! UNDER HIS WINGS Food & Baby Pantry is in need of coats and gloves for children, women, & men. Used coats are acceptable, if in good condition. New is awesome! Warm, winter baby and children's clothes in good condition are also desperately needed. Donations will be collected here at MPC until Feb. 2.

Souper Bowl Sale

The Deacons will be selling quart containers of "take and heat" chicken noodle soup or chili on Sunday, February 9, 2025. The cost is \$10 / quart. You can take your orders after morning worship or pick them up at the church building between 12 and 2 pm. Sign up on the back table or make an online order using this QR code (Stacey is available to assist with online orders):



Flyers available for you to share with friends and family! All proceeds benefit the Deacon's assistance fund.

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