



Murray Presbyterian Church

March 9, 2025 10am Worship

First Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting One Another Ringing of the Tower Bell

*Call to Worship

Leader: The season of Lent calls us to journey along the edge,
to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

**People: Lent calls us to the cutting edge,
when the wheat falls to the ground
and new life comes forth.**

Leader: Lent not only calls us to give up something,
but also invites us to participate in the mystery of God-with-us.

**People: By your grace, call us from grief into gladness,
despair into hope, estrangement into right relations
with each other and with the earth.**

*Prayer of Approach:

Journey with us, O God, as we begin our way to the cross. Sharpen our focus, that our attention might center more on you than ourselves. Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts that we might be a people of prayer, ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. In his name we pray.

*Hymn: "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" (PH 81)

Prayer of Confession:

Most loving God, we confess our habit of turning our religious activities into legalistic requirements rather than free responses to your grace and making our faith a system of good works and rules. Forgive us, we pray.

Help us, by your grace, to become compassionate and sensitive in the way we practice our faith and to cling to the righteousness that comes only from you. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response: "Gloria Patri"

Scripture: Matthew 12:1-14

Sermon: "Rule Bound Religion"
(CSI Jerusalem: Who Killed Jesus?, pt 1)

*Hymn: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" (PH 372)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn: "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" (PH 379)

*Benediction and Benediction Response

*Please Stand if Able

Announcements

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series

"The Path to the Cross," a video-based Bible study, begins this Wednesday evening (March 12) and continues for the next five weeks. Filmed on location in Israel, the series is led by Ray Vander Laan, a Bible teacher renowned for his ability to bring the Bible to life with fascinating insights from fields such as history, archeology, and Jewish studies. A light meal of soup and bread will be available starting at 6:30 pm, followed by the Bible study at 7:00 pm. Come join us as we journey with Jesus to the Cross and see how Israel's story (from Exodus) set the pattern for Jesus' ultimate act of obedience and sacrifice. Then, be challenged to live your life in the same way!

Murray Presbyterian Church

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