



Murray Presbyterian Church

*May 18, 2025 10am Worship
Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting One Another

Ringling of the Tower Bell

*Call to Worship:

Leader: My heart is glad!

People: My soul rejoices, and my body rests secure!

Leader: For you do not abandon me.

People: You give me counsel.

Leader: You are at my right hand.

People: You show me the path of life.

Leader: Your presence is sheer joy.

People: You are my God; apart from you, I have no good.

People: Blessed is your name!

--Based on Psalm 16

*Hymn: "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

(PH104)

Prayer of Confession:

God of life and death, we confess that sometimes we are not alive to the possibilities you offer. In the midst of pain, unfairness, and fear, we find little reason for hope. We feel despair or blame others, but we do not turn to you for help. Forgive us and show us how to share the new life you offer, through Jesus Christ. Amen

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response: “Gloria Patri”

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 16

Sermon: Resurrection Rescue
 (Easter Psalms, pt.2)

*Hymn: “When in the Night I Meditate” (PH 165)

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Offering

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn: “Because He Lives” (see screen)

*Benediction and Benediction Response

*Please Stand if Able

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

About the Hymns

The music of the psalter has long been a signature feature of Presbyterian and Reformed worship. In fact, Murray Presbyterian's original denomination—the United Presbyterian Church of North America—practiced what is called *exclusive psalmody* (where *only* psalms were allowed to be sung in worship) up until 1925. Rev. George Murray's Bible (which is now owned by our church) has the UPCNA's Psalter as section in the back.

Today's hymn following the sermon ("When in the Night I Meditate") is the Psalm 16 hymn from one of the classic psalters, published by John Day (or Daye) in London in 1562. Known as "the master printer of the English Reformation," Day published a wide variety of Protestant writings. That activity got him locked up in the Tower of London during the infamous reign of "Bloody Mary." But once Protestantism was restored, he again began producing Protestant literature, including Foxe's *Book of the Martyrs*. His 1562 psalter was the first one to set the English psalms to meter and it became the best-selling book of the day. It was widely used both in England and in North America up until the nineteenth century.

"Because He Lives," our final hymn today, is one of the most popular compositions by the husband-wife song-writing team of Bill and Gloria Gaither. Based on the words of Jesus in John 14:19—"because I live, you shall live also"—the lyrics stem from a crisis of faith they were going through around the time that their third child, Benjy, was born in 1971. At the time, they were facing health problems and other personal challenges. And with the chaos and uncertainty that seemed to be engulfing our society, they were distressed over the prospect of bringing another child into such a world. But on New Year's Eve, Gloria had a profound spiritual experience in which she felt the Lord imparting his peace and reassurance to her. "Gradually," she later recalled, "the fear left and the joy began to return. I knew I could have that baby and face the future with optimism and trust. It was the Resurrection affirming itself in our lives once again. It was LIFE conquering death in the regularity of my day." That realization became the inspiration for this beloved hymn.

Announcements

Community Picnic

Our church is sponsoring a community picnic at Tyson Park on Sunday, June 8, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Bring a covered dish to share and lawn chair. Brats, hot dogs, and table service will be provided. Join us for a time of fellowship, food, and fun and for an opportunity to meet neighbors in our community.

Vacation Bible School

Registration is now open for YEE HAW, this year's wild frontier-themed, weekend VBS. The dates and times are Friday, June 27 (6:30 - 8:15 pm, with family meal at 6:00 pm), Saturday, June 28 (9:30 am-12:00 pm), and Sunday, June 29 (10:00-11:00 am). Volunteers are needed to work at the various stations and to serve as crew leaders or junior crew leaders. To sign up VBS participants (pre-school to sixth grade) or to volunteer, go to www.myvbs.org/Murray2025VBS. For more information, see Julie Nickels or a member of the Christian Education team.

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