



Murray Presbyterian Church

*September 7, 2025 10am Worship
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting One Another

Ringling of the Tower Bell

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned. A new day has been born and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

People: We know the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of the human family. We remember those whose love has shaped our lives and those whose struggle for justice has been unsleeping even in night times of loneliness.

Leader: We gather in our church to worship God, to share prayers and gifts, and to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

People: May God bless us, so that what we do in this time together may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.

*Prayer of the Day:

Gracious God, we ask your blessing presence among us. We gather today after we have been scattered to many places, and we begin a new church year full of excitement, even if wistful for summer relaxation. Bless this church family—bless singers and pray-ers and workers and teachers and servers of so many kinds that all worship and ministry might be to your greater glory and that our gifts of the spirit might build up the body of Christ. Amen

*Hymn: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

(WC 353, vv.1-2,4-5)

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:6-13, 19-22

Sermon: "Come Before Winter "

*Hymn: "Abide with Me, Fast Falls the Eventide" (WC 365, vv.1-2. 4-5)

Offering

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving (see insert)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Table

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

*Hymn: "Be Still, My Soul" (WC 530)

*Benediction and Benediction Response

About the Sermon

The message this morning is inspired by one of the famous sermons in history, delivered every fall by the renowned twentieth century Presbyterian preacher, Rev. Clarence McCartney (1879-1957). In 1915, during the second year of his pastorate at Arch Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Philadelphia, McCartney conceived the idea of inviting all the students at local medical schools to attend a special Sunday evening service in September. That message he delivered to them, based on Paul's words to Timothy, was "Come Before Winter." The response was so overwhelmingly positive that he kept preaching it every fall. When he was called to serve First Presbyterian Church in downtown Pittsburgh, he continued the tradition all the way up until his retirement in 1955 (a total of 40 consecutive years). In 1945, Abingdon-Cokesbury Press published it as a stand-alone sermon. There is a recording on YouTube of Dr. McCartney delivering the sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jVyS8Wbsuk>. In subsequent decades, countless preachers (a lot of them, Presbyterians) have borrowed the idea and delivered their own sermons based on McCartney's idea.

*Please Stand if Able

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

Announcements

Rally Day:

Today marks the official start of the Sunday School year with Rally Day activities.

Guest Preacher:

Next Sunday, September 14, Linda Reffert will once again be returning to preach and lead in worship. Linda is a ruling elder who has been commissioned by the presbytery for pastoral service, most recently serving as interim pastor of First Presbyterian in Bellevue. Previously, she was a long-time Christian educator in our presbytery, directing ministries to children and youth at Hope Presbyterian and First Presbyterian in Bellevue. If you are able, please plan to be in worship next week to extend our church's customary warm welcome to Linda and be blessed by what she has to share.

Litter Clean-Up:

The next clean-up day along our adopted stretch of Hwy 1 will be next Sunday, September 14. Volunteers will meet at the high school at 2pm.

Birthday Cake Supplies:

In celebration of our church's 165th birthday, the Mission and Outreach team is collecting birthday cake supplies to be donated to the SENCA food pantry. See the sign-up sheet on the back table.

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