

# Murray House Sunday

## Celebrating Older Adults

October 11, 2020



Welcome and opening words of introduction about the liturgy.

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

*Praying in unison* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### The Collect for the Day

God of all the seasons of life, we thank you for the older adults who live among us, reminding us of the seasons of age and experience, reminding us of the necessity of enjoying each day as your gift, and offering us perspective, courage, peace, and a vision of what it means to age with grace. May we simply hold hands with one another, creating ties that will bind us into the great communion of saints who have been, who are, and who are yet to be! Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### The First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink

and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

### **The Second Lesson: Isaiah 40: 29-31**

He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

### **The Holy Gospel: Luke 2: 25-38**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

## **THE HOMILY**

The Rev. Ken Cumbie

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Lord God our Father, we thank you for the time you have given us, and for all your blessings to us throughout our lives.

Thank you for all the people we remember with gratitude for the part they played in our lives.

Thank you for the memories we treasure of places, occasions and activities.

Thank you for all the signs of your unchanging love for us now.

Lord hear us.

*Lord graciously hear us.*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, you are the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

You have not changed over the years as we have done; you have not changed as the world around us seems to change.

We thank you for always keeping faith with us.

We thank you for your understanding and encouragement, your patience and your compassion.

Lord hear us.

*Lord graciously hear us.*

Help us to come to you now and always, Lord, with complete confidence; to trust you for ourselves, our friends and families, for the churches we know, and for your world, knowing that your good purpose lies behind everything.

Lord hear us.

*Lord graciously hear us.*

You made us for yourself. We ask that this may be what matters most to us.

Help us to keep growing in wisdom, faith, and an ever-deepening awareness of your unfailing grace.

Lord hear us.

*Lord graciously hear us.*

O Lord God, from whom we come, in whom we are enfolded, to whom we shall return, bless us in our pilgrimage through life: with the power of the Father protecting, with the love of Jesus indwelling, and the light of the Spirit guiding, until we come to our ending, in life and love eternal. Amen.

*Amen.*

Murray House Collect:

Creator God of us all, we give thanks for our older adults who call Murray House their home. We give thanks for the joy they have brought us, the laughter and the tears we have shared with them. We give thanks for their compassion, for their teaching, mentoring, and friendship. We name memories we have made with them, both the happy and joyous ones and the painful and lonely ones that have bonded us closer together and to you. We name service we have shared with them that has allowed us to be a community, drawn from an amazing array of talents, and shaped us for your kingdom. We name learning moments where their insights inspired ours and our thoughts inspired their learning to even greater heights. We have been richly blessed by your loving generosity in sharing these older adults with us, and we name them in our hearts and give thanks for them in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer** *And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,*

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The Blessing**

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.