

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,
 3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 when my life is al - most gone,
 and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
 At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas A. Dorsey was known as "Georgia Tom" when he played piano for blues singer Ma Rainey. He started writing gospel songs after what he called "a definite spiritual change." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettie, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain
 Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

March 26, 2023
 Fifth Sunday in Lent

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Worship Leader: God calls us from places of exhaustion and defeat. Come, listen for a Word from our God.

Congregation: **We hear God calling us in a far distant voice. We had nearly forgotten God's care for us.**

Worship Leader: The Spirit breathes life into our weary souls. God offers hope when we have lost our way.

Congregation: **Our souls wait for the refreshment God offers. Our spirits are filled with great expectation.**

Worship Leader: Christ came as a light to all the world. Christ comes among us today to light our way.

Congregation: **We hear the teacher calling for us. Christ unbinds us that we may see and believe.**

Worship Leader: Let us worship our Ever-Present God, beginning with prayer.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: *God of life, present and promised, you are the One to whom we call: for you are the One who hears, and you are the One who acts, bringing us new life with your grace and love and power. Lead us in our time of worship, that we may be prepared to follow your lead in places where life is at risk—places where hope seems far away, places where dreams die during sleep. When we leave these walls, help us live the teachings we proclaim within this place of worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

HYMN

God is Truly with Us

Bulletin Insert

CALL TO CONFESSION

Worship Leader: To set the mind on the flesh is death. Focused only on our own interests, we cannot see God. The law of God is foreign to us, and we are hostile to its demands. To live in sin – separation from God – is death. Come now to the promise of life as we confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Out of the depths we cry to you, O God. Hear our prayers, the confession of our neglect, the admission of our desire to rule in your place. Forgive us, for cutting ourselves from communion with you. Forgive us, when we forsake lively and risky faith calling us to be agents of change in our world. We cry out for forgiveness and a new start. Renew us with your grace and ground us with your Spirit, that we might be empowered to live, in word and deed, as testimonies to the power of your love over the grave. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Worship Leader: Jesus says to us, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" Arise, in faith and trust, knowing that God will give life to our moral bodies, through the spirit who dwells in us and among us. We are not slaves to the flesh. God has made us to be instruments of self-giving love, who find life by giving it away. AS God has invested in us, we are free to invest ourselves in ministry to others.

All: Praise God!

PRAISE HYMN

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, #493

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

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OLD TESTAMENT READING – Judges 2:6-16

EPISTLE READING – Romans 8:6-11

GOSPEL READING – John 11:1-48

SERMON & PRAYER

Mr. Gary Berger

SPECIAL MUSIC

Peace Like a River

Chancel Choir

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God invites us to view the places of darkness in our world. Following Jesus' example, we are moved to speak life into places of death. We are called to ministries of justice that remove anything that impedes healing and life for all. Let us offer ourselves, and our resources that the breath of God might blow through our world with life-giving energy. We offer all we give with a song and prayer.

DOXOLOGY

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Hymnal, #258

(Verse 1, only)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Lift us up, O God, from the graves our of our self-interest as we invest ourselves in sharing the good news with the world. Increase our gifts of time and money, that all who are drained of hope might have their minds set on the Spirit. May the Spirit raise them to new life as we celebrate the resurrection Jesus promised to Lazarus and to all who trust and follow where God leads. Amen.

HYMN

Take My Life & Let it Be

Hymnal, #253

BENEDICTION

Worship Leader: We are freed from all that has bound us.

The Spirit sends us out in trust and joy,

Congregation: The Spirit dwells in us and empowers us.

The Light of Christ will show the Way.

Worship Leader: As you walk in the light, you will not stumble.

With trust in God, you will live, even in death.

Congregation: God is attentive to our prayers.

We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace.

Worship Leader: Go out to proclaim God's freeing love.

Spread a word of hope to all who are in distress.

Congregation: With God, there is great power to redeem.

We eagerly share God's steadfast love.

Worship Leader: Amen.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE