A Service of Healing

Pauli Murray, Priest
1985
Vigil

July 1, 2026
6:00 p.m.

The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector
The Reverend Maria Teresa Bautista-Berrios, Associate Rector

Tian Qin, Organist
Paul Mortilla, Choirmaster
April Sloan-Hubert, Co-Director of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble
Pelayo Parlade, Co-Director of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble

Making God's Presence Real
By Sharing Christ's Life-Changing Love

A Public Service of Healing

Pauli Murray, Priest
Vigil
June 30, 2021

The Word of God

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

After a period of silence, the Minister then says the following Collects.

Gracious God, we commend to your loving care all who suffer, especially those who come here seeking your healing grace for themselves and for others. Give them patience and hope in their distress; strengthen and uphold them in mind and body; and grant, by your intervention, that all your people may be made whole according to your desire, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen***

Liberating God, we thank you for the steadfast courage of your servant Pauli Murray, who fought long and well: Unshackle us from the chains of prejudice and fear, that we may show forth the reconciling love and true freedom which you revealed in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

First Lesson

Isaiah 55: 10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**.

Psalm 119: 17-24

17 Deal bountifully with your servant, *
that I may live and keep your word.

18 Open my eyes that I may see *
the wonders of your law.

19 I am a stranger here on earth; *
do not hide your commandments from me.

20 My soul is consumed at all times *
with longing for your judgments.

21 You have rebuked the insolent; *
cursed are they who stray from your commandments!

22 Turn from me shame and rebuke, *
for I have kept your decrees.

23 Even though rulers sit and plot against me, *
I will meditate on your statutes.

24 For your decrees are my delight, *
and they are my counselors.

Second Lesson

Galatians 3: 23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God**.

The Gospel

Mark 12: 1-12

Then Jesus began to speak to them in parables. 'A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watch-tower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But those tenants said to one another, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours." So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others.

(Continued on page 4)

Have you not read this scripture: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?' When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God**.

A Litany of Healing

The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding. A Person appointed then leads the Litany

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

All you Holy Angels, Archangels, and bodiless powers of heaven;

Stand beside us to guide and guard us on our way.

Holy Mary, Mother of God;

Pray for us and the people of the world.

For all who grieve the death of family, friends, and citizens;

Give them courage and strength to meet the days ahead, O Lord, and the consolation of your love.

Pour out your healing grace on all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are afraid, anxious, or overwhelmed, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Give peace, courage, and hope to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the sick and suffering, keep them safe and healthy, and grant them wisdom and skill, sympathy, and patience;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Open our eyes to see that you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and that our life and death are with each other;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Give us compassion for those in need, patience in this time of distress in our country, and love for our neighbors;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Let our hearts be not afraid;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

You are the Lord who does wonders:

You have declared your power among the peoples.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

And in your light we see light.

Let us pray:

A period of silence follows.

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People:
God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,
and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Prayers for Healing

The minister may invite each person to give her or his name and any particular request for prayer. The minister then prays silently, then prays aloud using one of the following forms or similar words.

I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, praying you will be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit. *Amen.*

After all are anointed

May the God who goes before you through desert places by night and by day be your companion and guide; may your journey be with the saints; may the Holy Spirit be your strength, and Christ your clothing of light, in whose name we pray. *Amen.*

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 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.

Blessing

May God the Father bless us, God the Son heal us, God the Holy Spirit give us strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard our bodies, save our souls, and bring us safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Amen.**

Pauli Murray: A Life Like No Other

Pauli Murray was the first African American woman ordained to the Episcopal priesthood. Her life experiences led her to advocate for "the universal cause of freedom" throughout her life. She worked ceaselessly and with distinction as a lawyer, an activist, a professor, and a writer before be-coming a priest in 1977. She was a model of the Christian life in modern America, and an inspiration for future seminarians of color today.

Anna Pauline Murray was baptized in 1911, a seventh-generation Episcopalian. Named for a beloved aunt, she later adopted "Pauli" for her name. Orphaned at an early age when her father was beaten to death by a white man following the prior loss of her mother, she drew upon a strength of will and intelligence that attracted attention early on. A bishop, who knew her, declared her a "child of destiny" at age 17.

Murray's career, imbued with Christian principles, particularly a thirst for social justice, would fulfill his prediction. But it wasn't an easy road. Prejudice dogged her. The University of North Carolina rejected her because of race. After graduating from Howard University, Harvard Law rejected her because of gender. This experience led her to recognize the connections be-tween racism and sexism before many others did, a condition she called "Jane Crow."

She later became the first African American to earn a Doctor of Juridical Science degree from Yale Law School. As a lawyer, Murray argued for civil rights and women's rights.

Thurgood Marshall called her 1950 book, *States' Laws on Race and Color*, the "bible" of the civil rights movement. It was the foundation of his arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Brown v. the Board of Education*, which declared segregated schools unconstitutional.

In 1971, Ruth Bader Ginsburg named Murray as a co-author of a brief in *Reed v. Reed*, a groundbreaking case on gender discrimination.

As an activist, Murray attempted to desegregate buses and helped organize sit -ins a decade before the civil rights movement. She later served on Pres-ident Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women. She co-founded the National Organization for Women in 1966. Although, for Murray, the civil rights and women's movements were intertwined, true to her experience, she criticized the sexism and racism she found in both.

As an academic, Murray helped found the American Studies program at Brandeis University, an interdisciplinary field fitting for someone who lived so consciously at the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality. Murray wrote numerous essays, a book of poetry *Dark Testament* (1970), and two memoirs *Proud Shoes: Story of an American Family* (1956) and *Song in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage*(1987).

Even as she advocated for women, Murray struggled to understand her own sexual and gender identity, sometimes describing herself as having an "inverted sex instinct." She was briefly married to a man and had several deep relationships with women. In the 1950's, she met Renee Barlow, who became her long-term partner. Although Murray publicly identified as female, she sometimes considered herself a male.

Perhaps Murray best pursued her destiny in her pioneering path to the priesthood. Her journey began at the deathbed of her beloved Aunt Pauline in 1955. In the absence of a priest,

Murray read to her from *The Book of Common Prayer*. The experience led her to question a male-only priesthood and to con-sider whether she had a calling. Over a decade later, Murray and Barlow walked out of services at St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery because women weren't allowed at the altar. They found a more accepting parish elsewhere.

Renee Barlow died in 1973, with Murray at her bedside, reading the 23rd Psalm. Murray planned the memorial service. The priest praised its beauty and asked her if she had ever thought about being ordained.

Murray soon left academia and entered General Theological Seminary and earned a Master of Divinity. Again, it was not an easy path. The Episcopal Church did not yet ordain women; and she was not well received by many seminarians. Nevertheless, she persisted. On January 8, 1977, at age 65, Murray was ordained at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Murray served at Church of the Atonement in Washington, D.C., from 1979 to 1981 and at Holy Nativity Church in Baltimore until her death in 1985.

Drawing upon her life and experience, Murray preached a doctrine of reconciliation. As one whose very being interrogated the social boundaries of race, gender, and sexuality, she presented herself as a symbol of healing. Murray's books include the family memoir *Proud Shoes: Story of an American Family* (1956) and the personal memoir *Song in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage* (1987).

Cancer cut short her ministry of healing, and Pauli Murray died at home on July 1, 1985. The General Convention added her to the church's calendar in 2012.

A Prayer for Migrant Ministries

Gracious God,
we give you thanks and all the glory
for abiding with us and blessing our ministries.
You walk us along paths of purpose;
You open portals of new opportunities before us;

Encourage our hearts,
to ensure a radiant and safe future for our newest neighbors,
who come from afar;

Inspire us
to create a beloved community with all who cross our paths.
We give thanks for the countless stories of small victories
and grand success
which are signs of your love and power working through us.

We thank you for the courage of all those who are compelled to migrate,
who strive to scale not just the high walls of life
but also and especially the higher walls of challenge.

Strengthen us to walk together with them
Be our continuing vision, O God,
Give us the hope of the immigrant,
the resolve of the wanderer,
and soften our hearts to their cries for justice.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
our welcomer, our greeter, our host,
AMEN+

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