

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

Precious Lord, Take My Hand Thomas A Dorsey

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If you'd like to hear the song: <https://youtu.be/yCf2jDGSbuQ>

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am lone.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near, when my light is almost gone.
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall. Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone;
At the river I stand, guide my feet hold my hand. Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am lone.
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1 John 1:4-5 *“The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”*

New Living Translation¹

Psalm 32:7-8 *“You are my hiding place! You protect me from trouble, and you put songs in my heart because you have saved me. You said to me, ‘I will point out the road you should follow. I will be your teacher and watch over you.’”*

Contemporary English Version²

John 8:12 *“Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, ‘I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.’”*

New Living Translation¹

Thomas A Dorsey wrote this hymn of lament after the death of his wife and son in childbirth. In the darkness and pain of loss, he recognized that only through God, could the light return to his life, and through that light could he find protection and a way forward. Can you relate? Have you ever found yourself in a storm and cried out to God? Describe that time. What impact did that call have on you? On those around you?

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Psalm 139:1-12 *“Lord, you have examined me you know me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up. Even from far away, you comprehend my plans. You study my traveling and my resting. You are familiar with all my ways. There isn’t a word on my tongue, Lord, that you don’t already know completely. You surround me – front and back. You put your hand on me. That kind of knowledge is too much for me; it’s so high above me that I can’t reach it. Where would I go to get away from your spirit? Where could I go to escape your presence? If I went up to heaven, you would be there. If I went down to the grave, you would be there too! If I could fly on the wings of dawn, stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean – even there your hand would guide me; even there your strong hand would hold me tight! If I said ‘The darkness will definitely hide me; the light will become night around me,’ even then the darkness isn’t too dark for you! Nighttime would shine bright as day, because darkness is the same as light to you!”* Common English Bible³

Psalm 16:7-8 *“I praise you, Lord, for being my guide. Even in the darkest night, your teachings fill my mind. I will always look to you, as you stand beside me and protect me from fear.”*

Contemporary English Version²

Matthew 7:24-25 *“All who listen to my instructions and follow them are wise, like a man who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents, and the floods rise and the storm winds beat against his house, it won’t collapse, for it is built on solid rock.”* The Living Bible⁴

The Bible reminds us that God is before us and behind us, within us, and the foundation we can confidently build our life on; there is nowhere we can go that God cannot reach us. Does this reassure you? Can you, like Thomas Dorsey, ask God to hold your hand as you walk through life?

When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone;
At the river I stand, guide my feet hold my hand. Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

Hebrews 11: 1-2, 13-14 *“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did*

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they do it? They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world. People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back anytime they wanted. But they were after a far better country than that – heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a city waiting for them.” The Message⁵

Luke 1:78-79 *“Because of our God’s deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace.”* Common English Bible³

Jesus tells us that it is God’s compassion that will give us peace even in the shadow of death. And Paul reminded the Hebrews, and us, that God’s promises are not only for the life we live on earth, but carry on to our true home in Heaven.

It’s easy to think of the world around us as our only home, to become attached to the people and things here. Had you ever thought of heaven as your true home? Does that change how you look at the world around you? In what ways might this challenge your perception of your time on earth? Spend some time with this. Share any concerns this brings up with God, and listen for God’s reassurance about *“the path of peace.”*

**“O God, have pity, for I am trusting you! I will hide beneath
the shadow of your wings until this storm is past.”**

Psalm 57:1 The Living Bible

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