

# Durham Mennonite Church

December 3, 2023



**Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church**

***First Sunday of Advent!***

# WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING PRAYER

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH & CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Isaiah 64)*

Oh Lord, rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your  
presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and  
the fire causes water to boil—to make your  
name known to your adversaries, and that the  
nations might tremble at your presence!

**When you did awesome things that we did not  
look for, you came down, the mountains  
quaked at your presence.**

**From of old, no one has heard or perceived by  
the ear, no eye has seen, a God besides you,  
who acts for those who wait for him. You  
meet those who joyfully do righteousness,  
those who remember you in your ways.**

**VT # 210 - O Come, O Come, Immanuel**

**1 O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**2 O come, O come, thou God of law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Thy precepts, taught on Sinai's height,  
call us to lives both just and right.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**3 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny.**

**From depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**4 O come, thou Dayspring,  
come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**5 O come, thou Key of David, come  
and open wide our heav'nly home.  
Make safe the way that leads to thee  
and close the path to misery.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**6 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh.  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and cause us in thy ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease,  
and fill the world with heaven's  
peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

*from Isaiah 64 & Psalm 102*

Hear our prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come to you! Do not hide your face in the day of my distress! Incline your ear to me, and answer me speedily in the day when I call! For I eat ashes like bread, and mingle tears with my drink, because of your indignation and anger; for you have taken me up and thrown me down.

**Behold, we have sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. We fail to call upon your name, to rouse ourselves to rely on you, for you hide your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.**

**Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever, but look upon us, we are all your people.**

My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass. But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; you are remembered throughout all generations. Arise and have pity on Zion, for the appointed time has come to favor her.

The LORD builds up Zion; he appears in his glory; he regards the prayer of the destitute and does not despise their prayer. The LORD looks down from heaven at the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD, when peoples and kingdoms gather together to worship the LORD.

**VT #682, Lord, Listen to Your Children**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**

**Lord, send your Spirit in this place.**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**

**send us love, send us pow'r,**

**send us grace.**



## **Scripture**

### ***Romans 13:8-14***

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

***Matthew 24:36- 25:13***

36 “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was

coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46

Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to

you, he will set him over all his possessions. 48

But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ 49 and begins to beat his

fellow servants and eats and drinks with

drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him

and at an hour he does not know 51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the

hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet

the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**Sermon – *Stay Awake* Spencer Bradford**

**Congregational Response**

**Sharing Praises and Prayer Concerns**

**Prayers of God's People**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name;

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## **DMC COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS**

*Do you pledge yourselves to love God and your neighbors?*

**We pledge ourselves, with God's help,**

**To love God with all our heart, mind,  
soul, and strength;**

**To love our neighbors as ourselves;**

**To love our friends and enemies**

**as we have been loved by Jesus,**

**who did not count our wrongs against us,  
but endured death**

**for the sake of our lives;**

**To persevere in faith,**

**confess our wrongs to one another,**

**and continually turn to God for grace,**

**hope and life.**

*Do you pledge to be joined to Christ's Body in this congregation?*

**We pledge ourselves, with God's help,  
to be joined together in worship and prayer,  
the instruction of Scripture,  
the sharing of bread and cup,  
basin and towel,  
in witness by word and deed  
to God's rule in Jesus Christ,  
nearby and across the earth,  
in discipleship to Jesus, growing together  
through the Spirit into the likeness of Christ,  
in caring service to one another  
and God's world,  
according to our gifts in God's Spirit.**



*Do you pledge yourselves to life in the Holy Spirit in this fellowship?*

**We pledge ourselves, with God's help,  
to live together in fellowship,  
practicing mutual care  
through joy and sorrow  
as members of one another in Christ's Body,  
giving and receiving counsel regularly  
to one another under God's Holy Spirit,  
speaking truth in love and listening  
with patience and humility,  
under God's living Word,  
offering and accepting forgiveness in Jesus,  
with mercy and generosity,  
to heal and reconcile,  
sharing God's gifts entrusted to us,  
to relieve burdens, strengthen the weak,  
and live God's call.**

## Footwashing

*At his last Passover, Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with his towel tied around him. After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. A new commandment I give you: love one another as I have loved you."*

Now, at Christ's mandate, we share the water of humility and stoop, as once Christ stooped to wash the feet of others. Our Teacher and Master gave us this great lesson to practice, to shape us in heart and action to his own serving love, so that we might be united selflessly as brothers and sisters in God's great common household.

**We offer ourselves to one another as to Christ, to serve as Christ's disciples, sharing the gifts of Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, as we become conformed to Christ's example, may we receive Christ and his gifts from one another.**

In receiving this washing, the gracious forgiveness and healing of our baptism, our belonging to Christ and each other, is refreshed and renewed.

**We offer ourselves to speak and hear the truth in love, to receive and accept forgiveness in Jesus, and to share with all others the forgiveness we receive. We lower our pride and empty our hands in order to heal injury and be bound together with mercy, compassion, patience and humility, to bear one another's burdens through the Spirit of Christ.**

*Washing of one another's feet*

**Hymn - VT #433, I Believe in God Almighty**

- 1. I believe in God Almighty,  
Author of all things that be.  
Maker of the earth and heavens,  
Keeper of the sky and sea.  
I believe in God's Son, Jesus,  
now for us both Lord and Christ,  
of the Spirit and of Mary  
born to bring abundant life.**
  
- 2. I believe that Jesus suffered,  
scourged and scorned and crucified,  
taken from the cross, was buried –  
True Life there had truly died.  
I believe that on the third day  
Christ was raised up from the grave,  
then ascended to God's right hand.  
He will come to judge and save.**

**3. I believe in God's own Spirit,  
bonding all the saints within  
one Church, catholic and holy,  
where forgiveness frees from sin;  
in the body's resurrection,  
for the breaking of death's chain,  
gives the life that's everlasting.  
This the faith that I have claimed.**

### **THE COMMUNION OF THANKSGIVING**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. We come in grateful celebration of Jesus' cross and resurrection, giving from our receiving, inviting as we have been invited, serving as we are served, renewing our bond to the narrow way of Jesus. There is room at his table for all who follow Jesus in God's covenant of grace and obedience.

**The Lord is God, compassionate and gracious,  
overflowing in loving mercy and steadfast  
kindness. Blessed be God, now and forever!**

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the  
grapes once dispersed on the hills are now  
united on this table in bread and drink, so Lord,  
may we be made a true community of your  
Spirit as your Body on earth, and may your  
whole people soon be gathered together from  
across the earth in your Kingdom of holy peace.

**Come, Lord Jesus! To you be glory forever!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise  
to the Lord, because he is good;  
his love is eternal.**

Truly, it is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to offer our praise, worship, and thanksgiving to you, Almighty and Ever-living God. For your generous creating grace, for redemption from slavery and sin, and for calling your people into obedient love through your law, prophets, and apostles,

**Blessed are you, O God, holy and mighty.**

For your Son Jesus Christ, our healer and redeemer; for his call to faith and peace; for his death and resurrection to bring forgiveness while we were your enemies killing him; for life in his Spirit, free from sin and death; for our communion with him in his Body, and the promise of his return in your full kingdom.

**Blessed are you, Creator Spirit,**

## **who makes all things new!**

Come, Spirit of Christ, and fulfill the promise of your kingdom among us. For on the night that he was betrayed, during supper, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink from this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." So with praise and thanksgiving, we offer to you all these gifts and our very selves, received from your grace, to be a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's self-giving for us and for the whole world:

**We praise you, we bless you, we worship**



**and thank you, O Lord our God.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon this communion, on us gathered here and on these gifts, that the sharing of this bread and cup may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Sanctify and fill us with your true presence, that in all our lives we may be for the world the Body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. As we share your presence anew at this table of your giving, let us share your presence with the world in the giving of our lives and selves, in your service for all people. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one in fellowship with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until we feast together at your heavenly table with all your saints, members of your Body across all places and ages. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**AMEN.**



**Hymn - VT #478, *I Come with Joy***

**1 I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.**

**2 I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.**

**3 As Christ breaks bread,  
and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.**

**The love that made us,  
makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.**

**4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.**

**5 Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.**

## **SENDING (from 1 Cor. 1:2-9)**

Give thanks to God always for the grace of God that was given you together in Christ Jesus, that in him you are enriched in all speech and all knowledge, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Go in grace and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, sanctified in his Spirit to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.