

Durham Mennonite Church

January 7, 2024



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH & CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 29*)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of
fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to
whirl, and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

**May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

Hymn - VT #22 What Is This Place

**What is this place where we are meeting?
Only a house, the earth its floor,
walls and a roof sheltering people,
windows for light, an open door.
Yet it becomes a body that lives
when we are gathered here,
and know our God is near.**

**Words from afar, stars that are falling,
sparks that are sown in us like seed.
Names for our God, dreams, signs, and
wonders sent from the past are what we
need. We in
this place remember and speak
again what we have heard:
God's free redeeming Word.**

**And we accept bread at his table,
broken and shared, a living sign.**

**Here in this world, dying and living,
we are each other's bread and wine.
This is the place where we can receive
what we need to increase:
God's justice and God's peace.**

**Hymn - VT #255 Love Came down at
Christmas**

**1 Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.
Sing noel, sing noel, sing noel.**

**2 Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus,**

**but wherewith for sacred sign?
Sing noel, sing noel, sing noel.**

**3 Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and others,
love for plea and gift and sign.
Sing noel, sing noel, sing noel.**

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

God our Maker, we confess that we have sinned and fallen away from love for you and one another. Your light came into the world in Jesus, but we have too much loved the darkness rather than the light because of our selfish works.

We have feared and avoided your light, lest we be seen truly. Forgive us our shortcomings and resistance, and return us to walk in your light and grace, by your love.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Hymn - VT #419 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.

There is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not,

**thy compassions, they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath
provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter,
and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses
above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and
love.**

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath
provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that
endureth,
thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide,
strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow;
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!**

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.**

**All I have needed thy hand hath
provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Scriptures

Genesis 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called

Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Acts 19:1–7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on

them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

Mark 1:4–11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down

and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Sermon - 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.

Communion Prayer 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 good, our greatest joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise, O Holy God, Father Almighty, creator of the universe. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. You called us to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful and turned away from you, you did not turn from us, but remained steadfast in love. You delivered us from captivity into freedom, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity, became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld

your glory, Emmanuel! At his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth, so we praise you and join their unending hymn with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Glory to God in the highest!

Blessed are you, Holy and Mighty!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Born in humility, he came to rule in your truth. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him. In the baptism of his suffering, death, and

resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

**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 as your children around your heavenly table with all your saints in your glory. 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.

Sharing of Bread and Cup at the Lord's Table

Hymn - VT #812 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God
from this dwelling take leave.**

The supper is ended.

**Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who
believe.**

The seed of Christ's teaching,

**receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for
all.**

**Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom
and answer your call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will
face—**

**our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children,**

the whole human race.

With your feast you feed us,

with your light now lead us;

**unite us as one in this life that we
share.**

Then may all the living

with praise and thanksgiving

give honor to Christ

and his name that we bear.

SENDING (Psalm 29:11 & 72:19)

**May the Lord give strength to his
people!**

May the Lord bless his people with
peace!

Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.

Amen and Amen.