

Durham Mennonite Church

January 28, 2024



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we gather in your presence today with open hearts and minds, ready to worship and praise your holy name. We ask that you bless this time of worship so that we may be uplifted and inspired by your presence. Fill us with your love and grace, and help us to honor you in all that we say and do. In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 111:1-9)

1 Praise the LORD!

**I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright,
in the congregation.**

**2 Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**

3 Full of splendor and majesty is God's work,

and his righteousness endures forever.

**4 He has caused his wondrous works
to be remembered;**

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

5 He provides food for those who fear him;

he remembers his covenant forever.

6 He has shown his people the power of his

works, in giving them the inheritance
of the nations.

**7 The works of his hands are faithful and
just;**

all his precepts are trustworthy;

**8 his commands are established
forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness
and uprightness.**

**9 He sent redemption to his people;
he has ordained his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is the name of the
Lord!**

Hymn - HWB #651

I Owe the Lord a Morning Song

**1 I owe the Lord a morning song
of gratitude and praise,
for the kind mercy he has shown
in length'ning out my days.**

**2 He kept me safe another night;
I see another day.
Now may his Spirit, as the light,
direct me in his way.**

**3 Keep me from danger and from sin,
help me thy will to do,
so that my heart be pure within,
and I thy goodness know.**

**4 Keep me til thou will call me hence,
where never night can be,
and save me, Lord, for Jesus' sake;
he shed his blood for me.**

Hymn - HWB #599 He Leadeth Me

**1 He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort
fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.**

**2 Sometimes mid scenes of deepest
gloom,
sometimes where Eden's flowers
bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.**

**3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be,**

for by his hand he leadeth me.

**4 And when my task on earth is done,
when, by thy grace, the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.**

Confession of Sin & Assurance (Psalm 51)

**Have mercy on me, O God,
in your steadfast love;
According to your abundant mercy,
blot out my offenses.**

Wash me thoroughly from all my
iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin.

**For I know well my offenses,
and my sin is before me always.**

Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,

**so that you are proven right
when you pass judgment,
and justified in pronouncing sentence.**

Indeed, I was born guilty with iniquity,
sinful from the moment my mother
conceived me.

**You desire truth in the hidden inmost
parts,**

so teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purify me with hyssop till I am clean,
wash me till I am whiter than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness,
let the bones you have crushed
dance for joy.**

Turn away your face from my sins,
and wipe away all my iniquity.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your
presence,
**and do not take your holy Spirit from
me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
**and grant me a willingly generous spirit
to sustain me.**

Then I shall teach transgressors your
ways,
and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God,

God of my salvation,
**and my tongue will sing aloud
of your righteousness.**

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

**You take no pleasure in sacrifice,
or else I would offer it;
you do not desire a burnt offering.**

My true sacrifice to you, O God,
is a humbled spirit;
**a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.**

Hymn - HWB #573

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a Friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged,

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness,

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Scriptures

1 Samuel 20:12-42

¹² And Jonathan said to David, “The LORD, the God of Israel, be witness! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not

then send and disclose it to you? ¹³ But should it please my father to do you harm, the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also if I do not disclose it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. May the LORD be with you, as he has been with my father. ¹⁴ If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die; ¹⁵ and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” ¹⁶ And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the LORD take vengeance on David's enemies.” ¹⁷ And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

¹⁸ Then Jonathan said to him, “Tomorrow

is the new moon, and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty.¹⁹ On the third day go down quickly to the place where you hid yourself when the matter was in hand, and remain beside the stone heap.²⁰ And I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I shot at a mark.²¹ And behold, I will send the boy, saying, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I say to the boy, ‘Look, the arrows are on this side of you, take them,’ then you are to come, for, as the LORD lives, it is safe for you and there is no danger.²² But if I say to the youth, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you,’ then go, for the LORD has sent you away.²³ And as for the matter of which you and I have spoken, behold, the LORD is between you and me forever.”

²⁴ So David hid himself in the field. And

when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat food.²⁵ The king sat on his seat, as at other times, on the seat by the wall. Jonathan sat opposite, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty.

²⁶ Yet Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has happened to him. He is not clean; surely he is not clean."²⁷ But on the second day, the day after the new moon, David's place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has not the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?"²⁸ Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem.²⁹ He said, 'Let me go, for our clan holds a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. So now, if I

have found favor in your eyes, let me get away and see my brothers.' For this reason he has not come to the king's table."

³⁰ Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman, do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? ³¹ For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." ³² Then Jonathan answered Saul his father, "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" ³³ But Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him. So Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to

death.³⁴ And Jonathan rose from the table in fierce anger and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had disgraced him.

³⁵ In the morning Jonathan went out into the field to the appointment with David, and with him a little boy.³⁶ And he said to his boy, “Run and find the arrows that I shoot.” As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.³⁷ And when the boy came to the place of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the boy and said, “Is not the arrow beyond you?”³⁸ And Jonathan called after the boy, “Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!” So Jonathan's boy gathered up the arrows and came to his master.³⁹ But the boy knew nothing. Only Jonathan and David knew the matter.⁴⁰

And Jonathan gave his weapons to his boy and said to him, “Go and carry them to the city.”⁴¹ And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most.⁴² Then Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.’” And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

1 Corinthians 16:5-14

⁵ I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia,⁶ and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go.⁷ For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.⁸ But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,⁹ for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

¹⁰ When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am.¹¹ So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

¹² Now concerning our brother Apollos, I

strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

¹³ Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.

Luke 24:36-53

36 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. 38 And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I

have.” 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate before them.

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48

You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

50 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Sermon “*Leaving*” - 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.

Hymn - HWB #421

Bless Be the Tie That Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes,
each other's woes, each other's burdens
bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4 When we assunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

5 This glorious hope revives
our courage by the way;
while each in expectation lives
and longs to see the day.

6 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

SENDING

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