

Durham Mennonite Church

February 11, 2024



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, giver of life,
your light shines in our lives
and your glory is revealed
through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Reveal his glory to us
that we may be filled with his power
and our mouths may proclaim his presence
forevermore. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord has called you here this day.

P: Lord, reveal to us your purposes for us.

L: Open your hearts to receive God's good news.

P: Lord, make us ready to serve you.

L: Come, let us worship God!

P: Let us sing our praises to the Almighty One.

AMEN.

HWB #644 When Morning Gilds the Skies

**When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
To Jesus I repair;
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find,**

**May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this,
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**The night becomes as day
When from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
In heav'n's eternal bliss
The loveliest strain is this,
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th'eternal song
Through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

HWB #412 We Shall Walk Through the Valley

**We shall walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
We shall walk through the valley in peace,
And if Jesus himself will be our leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.**

**There will be no sorrowing there,
There will be no sorrowing there.
And if Jesus himself shall be our leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.**

(Hum).....

(Hum).....

**And if Jesus himself shall be our leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.**

Confession of Sin & Assurance

Mighty one of yesterday, today, and tomorrow,
do not be silent, but speak, that we may hear.

Speak justice,
that we may correct our lawlessness.

Speak righteousness,
that we may know your ways.

Speak compassion,
that we may know your mercy.

Speak abundance,
that we may serve others.

Speak understanding,
that we may be peacemakers.

Speak glory,
that we may know your Son.

Speak, and we will listen to you.

You promise forgiveness of sins
and fullness of grace
when we speak our shortcomings.

We speak of mistakes we have made.

We speak of abandoning your ways.

**We speak of failures
to show compassion and mercy.**

We speak of our need for forgiveness.

Mighty one of yesterday, today, and tomorrow,
hear our prayer and lead us into fullness of life.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

God will not keep silent, but will gather us in
with the tender words: “You are forgiven.”

Glory to God!

Hymn HWB #514 Lord, I am Fondly

**1 Lord, I am fondly, earnestly longing
into thy holy likeness to grow,
thirsting for more
and deeper communion,
yearning thy love more fully to know.**

Open the wells of grace and salvation,

**pour the rich streams deep into my
heart.**

**Cleanse and refine
my thought and affection,
seal me and make me pure as thou art.**

**2 Dead to the world would I be, O Savior,
dead unto sin, alive unto thee.**

**Crucify all the earthly within me,
emptied of sin and self may I be.**

**Open the wells of grace and salvation,
pour the rich streams deep into my
heart.**

**Cleanse and refine
my thought and affection,
seal me and make me pure as thou art.**

**3 I would be thine and serve thee
forever,
filled with thy Spirit, lost in thy love.
Come to my heart, Lord,
come with anointing,
showers of grace send down from above.**

**Open the wells of grace and salvation,
pour the rich streams deep into my
heart.**

**Cleanse and refine
my thought and affection,
seal me and make me pure as thou art.**

Scripture - Psalm 50 NRSV

A Psalm of Asaph.

1The mighty one, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

3Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.

4He calls to the heavens above

and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

5“Gather to me my faithful ones,

who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

6The heavens declare his righteousness,

for God himself is the judge.

7“Hear, O my people, and I will speak,

O Israel, I will testify against you.

I am God, your God.

8Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;

your burnt offerings are continually before me.

9I will not accept a bull from your house,

or goats from your folds.

**10For every wild animal of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.**

**11I know all the birds of the air,
and all that moves in the field is mine.**

**12“If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and all that is in it is mine.**

**13Do I eat the flesh of bulls,
or drink the blood of goats?**

**14Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and pay your vows to the Most High.**

15Call on me in the day of trouble;

I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

16But to the wicked God says:

**“What right have you to recite my statutes,
or take my covenant on your lips?**

**17For you hate discipline,
and you cast my words behind you.**

**18You make friends with a thief when you see
one,
and you keep company with adulterers.**

**19“You give your mouth free rein for evil,
and your tongue frames deceit.**

20You sit and speak against your kin;

you slander your own mother's child.

21These things you have done

and I have been silent;

you thought that I was one just like yourself.

But now I rebuke you,

and lay the charge before you.

22“Mark this, then, you who forget God,

or I will tear you apart,

and there will be no one to deliver.

23Those who bring thanksgiving

as their sacrifice honor me;

to those who go the right way

I will show the salvation of God.”

Scripture - Mark 9:2-9 NRSV

The Transfiguration

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there

appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" 8 Suddenly when

they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Scriptures - II Kings 2:1-14

Elijah Ascends to Heaven

1Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

2Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. **3**The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to

Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

4Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. 5The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and

said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

6Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. **7**Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some

distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of

your spirit.” 10He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” 11As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 12Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no

longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Elisha Succeeds Elijah

13He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” When he had struck the water, the water was parted

**to the one side and to the other, and Elisha
went over.**

**Sermon – “I will not leave you”
*Jonathan Larson***

**Song - We Will Follow
(To the tune of 'Thuma Mina')**

We will follow, we will follow.

Let us never leave you, Lord.

Be it Jordan or the desert,

Let us never leave you, Lord

**Be it city or the mountains,
Let us never leave you, Lord.**

**Grant your mantle, grant your spirit,
Grant your spirit, O God, we pray.**

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 #425 Come, Come, Ye
Saints**

**1 Come, come, ye saints,
no toil nor labor fear;
But with joy wend your way.
Though hard to you
the journey may appear,
Grace shall be as your day.
We have a living Lord to guide
and we can trust him to provide**

**Do this, and joy your hearts will swell—
All is well! All is well!**

**2 The world of care is
with us ev'ry day
let it not this obscure
Here we can serve the
Master on the way
and in him be secure
Gird up your loins
fresh courage to take
our God will never us forsake
And so our song no fear can quell
All is well! All is well!**

**3 We'll find the rest
which God for us prepared,
When at last he will call,
Where none will come**

**to hurt or make afraid;
he will reign overall.
We will make the air with music ring,
Shout praise to God
our Lord and King;
Oh, how we'll make the chorus swell
All is well! All is well!**

SENDING