

Durham Mennonite Church

February 25, 2024



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, be with us today on this second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to put aside the things that try to separate us from you and help us to commit our lives, our spirits, and our hearts to ministry in your name. AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 22:23-28*)

**²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring
of Israel!**

**24 For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.**

**25 From you comes my praise in the
great congregation; my vows I will pay
before those who fear him.**

**26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!**

**27 All the ends of the earth shall
remember and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.**

**28 For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.**

VT #75 Praise My Soul

**1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.**

**Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King!

**2 Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress.**

**Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glorious in his faithfulness!

**3 Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.**

In his hand he gently bears us,

rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Widely yet his mercy flows!

4 Angels, help us to adore him;

you behold him face to face.

Sun and moon, bow down before him,

dwellers all in time and space.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace!

HWB #597 O How Happy are They

O how happy are they

Who the Savior obey,

And have laid up their treasure above!

O what tongue can express

The sweet comfort and peace

Of a soul in its earliest love.

**O,that comfort was mine,
When the favor divine
I first found in the blood of the Lamb;
When my heart it believed,
What a joy it received,
What a heaven in Jesus his Name!**

**What a heaven below,
My Redeemer to know,
And the angels could do nothing more,
Than to fall at His feet,
And the story repeat,
And the Lover of sinners adore.**

**Jesus all the day long
Was my joy and my song;
O that all His salvation may see!
He hath loved me, I cried,**

**He hath suffered, and died,
To redeem such a rebel as me.**

Hymn - All I Once Held Dear

All I once held dear, built my life upon

All this world reveres, and wars to own

All I once thought gain I have counted loss

Spent and worthless now, compared to this

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,

There is no greater thing

You're my all, you're the best

You're my joy, my righteousness

And I love you, Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know you more

To be found in you and known as yours

To possess by faith what I could not earn

All-surpassing gift of righteousness

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,

There is no greater thing

You're my all, you're the best

You're my joy, my righteousness

And I love you, Lord.

Oh, to know the power of your risen life

And to know You in Your sufferings

To become like you in your death, my Lord

So with you to live and never die

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,

There is no greater thing

You're my all, you're the best

You're my joy, my righteousness

And I love you, Lord.

Confession of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ

Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn - VT #605 My Life Flows On

**1. My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.**

**I hear the clear, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

**Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**2. Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?**

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**3. What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.**

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

**Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!**

All things are mine since I am his!

How can I keep from singing?

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

**Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Scripture - Genesis 12:1-9

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

**4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him;
and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-
five years old when he departed from Haran. 5
Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's
son Lot, and all the possessions that they had
gathered, and the persons whom they had
acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to
the land of Canaan. When they had come to
the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through
the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of**

Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of

the LORD. 9 And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Scripture - Mark 8:31-38

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside

and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will

lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Sermon – Jonathan Larson

Hymn - VT#545 Here I Am, Lord

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky

I have heard my people cry

All who dwell in deepest sin,

My hand will save

I, who made the stars of night

I will make their darkness bright

Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,

I have borne my people's pain,

I have wept for love of them,

They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,

Give them hearts for love alone

I will speak my words to them.

Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame

I will call the poor by name

I will set a feast for them.

My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide

'Til their hearts be satisfied

I will give my life to them.

Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart

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 - God Be With You Till We Meet Again

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky

I have heard my people cry

All who dwell in deepest sin,

My hand will save

I, who made the stars of night

I will make their darkness bright

Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

**2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?**

[Chorus]

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
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3. I, the Lord of wind and flame

I will call the poor by name

I will set a feast for them.

My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide

'Til their hearts be satisfied

I will give my life to them.

Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

SENDING - VT#1057