

Durham Mennonite Church

March 20, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship in person and on Zoom

Preaching: Jonathan Larson Worship Leader: Marcia Nice



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship (Isaiah 55:1-9)

Invitation to the Thirsty

55

“Come, all you who are thirsty,

come to the waters;

and you who have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without cost.

2

Why spend money on what is not bread,

and your labor on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

3

Give ear and come to me;

listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

4

See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

5

Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know
will come running to you,
because of the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor.”

6

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

7

Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the Lord,
and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

8

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the Lord.

9

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Extinguish a Lenten Candle

As we extinguish these candles, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of violence around us, the blight of war and cruelty, and our abuse of the created order itself.

(Prayer)

Draw us together in your love, O God. Make our hearts open to your speaking, and sustain us in our search for amended living as part of the beloved community. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn - #551 Beautiful Things

All this pain

I wonder if I'll ever find my way

I wonder if my life could really change, at all

All this earth

Could all that is lost ever be found?

Could a garden come out from this ground, at
all?

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us.

All around,

Hope is springing up from this old ground

Out of chaos life is being found, in you.

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us

Oh, you make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us

You make me new,

You are making me new

You make me new,

You are making me new

(Making me new)

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us

Oh, you make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us

You make me new,

You are making me new

You make me new,

You are making me new

Hymn - As the Deer

As the deer panteth for the water

So my soul longeth after Thee

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship Thee

You alone are my Strength, my Shield

To You alone may my spirit yield

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship Thee.

I want You more than gold or silver

Only You can satisfy

You alone are the real joy-giver

And the apple of my eye

You alone are my Strength, my Shield

To You alone may my spirit yield

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship Thee.

You're my Friend and You are my Brother

Even though You are a King

I love You more than any other

So much more than anything

You alone are my Strength, my Shield

To You alone may my spirit yield

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship Thee.

Hymn - #33 You Are Good

Lord You are good

And Your mercy endureth forever

Lord You are good

And Your mercy endureth forever

People from every nation and tongue

From generation to generation

We worship you

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

We worship you for who you are

We worship you

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

We worship you for who you are

for you are good!

Lord You are good

And Your mercy endureth forever

Lord You are good

And Your mercy endureth forever

People from every nation and tongue

From generation to generation

We worship you

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

We worship you for who you are

We worship you

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

We worship you for who you are

for you are good!

Lord You are good

And Your mercy endureth forever

Lord You are good

And Your mercy endureth forever

Lord You are good

And Your mercy endureth forever

People from every nation and tongue

From generation to generation

We worship you

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

We worship you for who you are

We worship you

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

We worship you for who you are

You are good!

A Prayer of Letting Go

O God, help us to use this season of Lent
to examine our attachments,
and to sense where You invite us
to live more simply and deeply.

Shine the light of Your love
into the private corners of our lives
where we have acquired so much clutter
that it has begun to restrict our freedom.

Grant us the strength to free ourselves
from appetites and needs that drive us
into taking, having and wanting
more than we need or have time for.

Teach us that in letting go we become free,

rather than deprived,
generous rather than covetous,
and spacious rather than restricted.

We set out in Lenten seeking,
and today we place our feet
on the road to Easter, and walk
the Way that You have walked before us. AMEN

Ann Siddall, (adapted)

Stillpoint Spirituality Centre

Hymn - #558 Lord, I want to be a Christian

Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart

Scripture – Luke 13:1-9

Repent or Perish

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Sermon – Jonathan Larson

Reflection on the sermon

Sharing praises and prayer concerns

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 #300 Far, Far Away

Far, far away from my loving Father
I had been wandering, wayward, wild
Fearing only lest His anger
Overtake his sinful child

Fain had I fed on the husks around me
Till to myself I came and said
Plenty have my Father's servants
Perish I for want of bread

I will arise though faint and weary
home to my Father I will go
Woe to me that e'er I wandered
Ah that I such need should know

Father I'll say I have sinned before Thee
No more may I be called Thy son
Make me only as Thy servant
Pity me a wretch undone

Then I arose and came to my Father
Mercy amazing! Love unknown!
He beheld me, ran, embraced me
Pardoned, welcomed, called me son

I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in his arms
In the arms of my dear Savior
Oh there are ten thousand charms

Sending