

Durham Mennonite Church

April 3, 2022

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

Preaching: Spencer Bradford Worship Leader: Marcia Nice



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Light the Lenten Candles

Welcome and Announcements

April 3 4:00 Practice singing at church

April 5 7:00-8:00 Carols for peace

Downtown Durham Plaza by the Bull

April 6 7:00 Wednesday Lenten Bible Study

April 7 7:00 Church Council

April 10 Palm Sunday - Crop Walk

April 14 Maundy Thursday

April 15 Tenebrae Service

April 17 Easter

Opening Prayer

Mighty God, everything you do reveals your glory and majesty. Open our eyes to see what you are doing in our lives. Let us marvel at your good gifts and your wise provision. Your acts are amazing Lord. We can not comprehend the number of blessings you pour out on us from day to day. As we gather today before you, we pray that you would fill our hearts, our minds and our souls. Transform us Lord, and make us more like you. You have forgiven our sins. You have rescued us from death. You have crowned us with love and tender mercies. Renew our strength and refresh our souls. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Call to Worship

Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

Come and let us worship with great joy!

Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!

God is about to do something new in our lives!

Let God's will become strong in our lives.

AMEN.

Hymn - #10 Here in this place

Here in this place, the new light is streaming,
now are the shadows vanished away.

See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,
gather us in - our spirits in-flame.

Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
we are the old - who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,
gather us in - the proud and the strong.

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine of compassion,

Here we will take the bread of new birth.

Here we become the people you fashion,

children of God, to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine ever flowing,

give us to eat the bread that is you.

Nourish us well, and guide us in growing

lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, dim and confining,

not in some heaven, light years away,

here in this place, the new light is shining;

now is the dawning and now is the day.

Gather us in - and hold us forever,

gather us in - and make us your own.

Gather us in - all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Hymn - #715 Longing for light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts

Shine through the darkness

Christ, be our light!

Shine in Your church gathered today

Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair
Your word alone has pow'r to save us

Make us your living voice

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts

Shine through the darkness

Christ, be our light!

Shine in Your church gathered today

Longing for food, many are hungry

Longing for water, many still thirst

Make us your bread, broken for others
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts

Shine through the darkness

Christ, be our light!

Shine in Your church gathered today

Longing for shelter, many are homeless

Longing for warmth, many are cold

Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts

Shine through the darkness

Christ, be our light!

Shine in Your church gathered today

Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts

Shine through the darkness

Christ, be our light!

Shine in Your church gathered today!

Hymn - #116 How great is our God

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty

Let all the Earth rejoice

All the Earth rejoice

He wraps himself in light

And darkness tries to hide

And trembles at His voice

and trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me

How great is our God, and all will see

How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands

And time is in His hands

Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end
The Godhead Three in One
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Name above all names
Worthy of our praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

**How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God**

Extinguishing the Lenten Candles

Prayer of Confession

Loving Lord,

Forgive those things we have done
which have caused you sadness,
and those things we should have done
that would have brought you joy.

In both we have failed ourselves, and you.

Bring us back to that place
where our journey began,
when we said that we would follow

the way that you first trod.

Lead us to the Cross and meet us there.

Hymn - #162 The love of God

The love of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
it goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell.

The wand'ring child is reconciled
by God's beloved Son.

The aching soul again made whole,
and priceless pardon won.

**O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints' and angels' song.**

When ancient time shall pass away,

and human thrones and kingdoms fall;
when those who here refuse to pray
on rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
all measureless and strong;
grace will resound the whole earth round—
the saints' and angels' song. [Refrain]

**O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints' and angels' song.**

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made;
were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,
and ev'ryone a scribe by trade;
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
though stretched from sky to sky. [Refrain]

**O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints' and angels' song.**

Scripture – Isaiah 43:16 - 44:4

16

Thus says the Lord,

who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,

17

who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

18

Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.

19

I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

20

The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,

21

the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

22

Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob;
but you have been weary of me, O Israel!

23

You have not brought me your sheep for burnt
offerings,

or honored me with your sacrifices.

I have not burdened you with offerings,

or wearied you with frankincense.

24

You have not bought me sweet cane with
money,

or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.

But you have burdened me with your sins;
you have wearied me with your iniquities.

25

I, I am He

who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,

and I will not remember your sins.

26

Accuse me, let us go to trial;

set forth your case, so that you may be proved right.

27

Your first ancestor sinned,

and your interpreters transgressed against me.

28

Therefore I profaned the princes of the sanctuary,

I delivered Jacob to utter destruction,
and Israel to reviling.

Chapter 44 - Israel the Chosen

1

“But now listen, Jacob, my servant,

Israel, whom I have chosen.

2

This is what the Lord says—

he who made you,

who formed you in the womb,

and who will help you:

Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant,

Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

3

For I will pour water on the thirsty land,

and streams on the dry ground;

I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring,

and my blessing on your descendants.

4

They will spring up like grass in a meadow,

like poplar trees by flowing streams.

Scripture - 1 John 1:5- 2:6

God Is Light

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Christ Our Advocate

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does

sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. Whoever says, "I have come to know him," but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says, "I abide in him," ought to walk just as he walked.

Scripture - John 8:2-11

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had

been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

Sermon – Spencer Bradford

Reflection Time and Sharing for Prayer

Prayers of the Church

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 after 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 a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to offer our praise, worship, and thanksgiving to you, Almighty

and Everlasting God. For your generous creating grace, for redemption from slavery and sin when we rebelled against you and forgot you, for sustaining us with manna even in the wilderness of lostness and judgment, and for calling your people into obedient love through your law, prophets, and apostles,

Blessed are you, O God, holy and mighty.

For your Son Jesus Christ, our healer and redeemer; for his call to faith and peace; for his death and resurrection to bring forgiveness while we were your enemies killing him; for life in his Spirit, free from sin and death; for our communion with him in his Body, and the promise of his return in your full kingdom,

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, united to 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 for us. 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 at your heavenly table with all your saints in the freedom of holiness.

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.

Communion

Hymn - #832 The Lord lift you up

The Lord lift you up,
The Lord take your hand,
The Lord lead you forth,
and cause you to stand,
secure in God's word,
seeking God's face,
abounding in love,

abiding in grace.

Sending