

Durham Mennonite Church

May 8, 2022

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

Preaching: Jonathan Robie Worship Leader: Marcia Nice



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

God, you who open doors and dismantle barriers,
open our hearts this morning to praise you,
that we might live the full truth of who we are
that we might live as neighbors and friends with each other;
open our hearts to the transforming power of your love,
that we might forgive and reconcile,
making peace and learning war no more,
that we might be your people, one body in one Spirit,
to tell your grace to all the world.

We pray in the name of the One
who walked among us as brother and friend. Amen.

Call to Worship

In the beginning
when it was very quiet
the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

In the beginning
when it was very dark,
God said, "Let there be light,"
and there was light.

When the time was right,
God sent the Son;
**Christ came among us
and was one of us.**

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 - #30 Jesus calls us

Jesus calls us here to meet him as,
through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.

Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends ;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail or fall.

Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are;

creed and color, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.

Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

Hymn - #628 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

Oh, what peace we often forfeit

Oh, 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.

Jesus' arms will take and shield thee

Thou wilt find a solace there.

Prayer of Confession

Friends in Christ,
God knows our needs before we ask
and in our asking
prepares us to receive the gift of grace.

We open our lives to God's healing
presence
seeking peace with God
and reconciliation with our neighbors.

We are mindful not only of personal evil
but also of our communal sins
of family, class, race, and nation.

We confess to God what has wounded us
or brought injury to others,
that we may receive mercy
and become for each other

ministers of God's grace.

(silence)

Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ!

Christ died for us,

Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us,

Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation!

The old life has gone, a new life has begun!

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Amen!

Hymn - #617 When peace like a river

When peace like a river attendeth my way

When sorrows like sea billows roll,

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say

It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well (it is well)

With my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet,

though trials should come

Let this blest assurance control

That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate

And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

It is well (it is well)

With my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul.

Redeemed, oh the bliss of this glorious thought

My sin, not in part, but the whole

Is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well (it is well)

With my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day

when my faith shall be sight

The clouds be rolled back as a scroll

The trump shall resound,

and the Lord shall descend

Even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well (it is well)

With my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul.

Scripture - Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

1

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

3

he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

4

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

5

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

my whole life long.

Scripture - Acts 9:36–43

Peter in Lydda and Joppa

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” 39 So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and

helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Scripture - Revelation 6:9-7:8

The Seven Seals

6 Then I saw the Lamb break one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures call out, as with a voice of thunder, "Come!" 2 I looked, and there was a white horse! Its rider had a bow; a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering and to conquer.

3 When he broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature call out, "Come!" 4 And out came another horse, bright red; its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another, and he was given a great sword.

5 When he broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature call out, "Come!" I looked, and there was a black horse! Its rider held a pair of scales in his hand, 6 and I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's pay and three quarts of barley for a day's pay, but do not damage the olive oil and the wine!"

7 When he broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature call out, "Come!" 8 I looked, and there was a pale green horse! Its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed with him; they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword,

famine, and pestilence and by the wild animals of the earth.

9 When he broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered for the word of God and for the testimony they had given; 10 they cried out with a loud voice, "Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long will it be before you judge and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?" 11 They were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number would be complete both of their fellow servants and of their brothers and sisters who were soon to be killed as they themselves had been killed.

12 When he broke the sixth seal, I looked, and there was a great earthquake; the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree drops its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a

scroll rolling itself up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the magnates and the generals and the rich and the powerful and everyone, slave and free, hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Scripture - Revelation 7:9–17

The Multitude from Every Nation

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15

For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

16

They will hunger no more and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat,

17

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Sermon – Jonathan Robie

Reflection on the sermon

Sharing praises and prayer concerns

The Lord's Prayer - #731 Hymnal

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 - #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.

Benediction

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and your minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
remain with you always. Amen.

**Offerings may be placed in the offering
basket or given electronically on the
church's website.**