

Durham Mennonite Church

Pentecost Sunday June 5, 2022



Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

O Lord, our God, we gather together today to give you thanks and praise your greatness. We praise your mighty works to the whole world. We praise you for your wonderful deeds. Your power is limitless, your wisdom is unparalleled, your grace is overwhelming, your love is never failing. You promised that you will never leave or forsake us. Let us worship you in spirit and truth. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Call to Worship (*from Psalm 104:25-34*)

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

These all look to you to give them

their food in due season;

when you give to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand,

they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath,

they die and return to their dust.

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created;

and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

may the Lord rejoice in his works,

who looks on the earth and it trembles,

who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him,

for I rejoice in the Lord.

Hymn - #111 Bless the Lord, O my soul

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

VERSE 1

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

VERSE 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before, oh my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

VERSE 3

And on that day when my strength is failing

The end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before, oh my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

Hymn - #828 There's a wild hope in the wind

There's a wild hope on the wind,
her whisper is heard on the breeze.
The gale is her shout, calling us out,
there's a wild hope on the wind
O God in the wind, come, gather us in,
be our courage and promise.
The future is dim,
but we want to live into a wild, wild hope.

There's a wild hope in the skies,
her gown is the blue of forever
The purple of night is her heart's pure delight,
there's a wild hope in the skies.
O God in the skies, come, open our eyes,
be our courage and promise.
The future is dim,
but we want to live into a wild, wild hope.

There's a wild hope in the earth,
her body provides us with nurture.
The dark underground is where life can abound,
there's a wild hope in the earth.

O God in the earth, come, aid our re-birth,
be our courage and promise.
The future is dim,
but we want to live into a wild, wild hope.

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

(from Ezekiel 36:22-38)

Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake,
O house of Israel, that I am about to act,
but for the sake of my holy name, which you have
profaned among the nations to which you came.

**We confess, Lord God, our disobedience has profaned
your name – we use your name for our priorities,
and we demean you. We have polluted your work in the
world by our idols, and in worshiping empty things
without life, we become dead things with hearts of
stone. We confess our evil ways, and dealings full of**

compromise and coveting. We loathe our iniquities and our abominable deeds. Our ways make us ashamed and dismayed, O Lord. Cleanse us, make us alive and holy in your Spirit, that our repentance may glorify you.

[Silence]

Thus says the Lord God: I will sanctify my great name, which you have profaned among the nations, and the nations shall know that I am the Lord when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. You shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Hymn - #129 Fire of God, undying Flame (HWB)

Fire of God, undying flame,
Spirit who in splendor came,
let your heat my soul refine,
till it glows with love divine.

Breath of God, that swept in power
in the Pentecostal hour,
holy Breath, be now in me
source of vital energy.

Strength of God, your might within
conquers sorrow, pain and sin.
Fortify from evil's art
all the gateways of my heart.

Truth of God, your piercing rays
penetrate my secret ways.
May the light that shames my sin
guide me holier paths to win.

Love of God, your grace profound
knows not either age or bound.
Come, my heart's own guest to be;
dwell forevermore in me.

Scripture - 1 John 4:1-16 (NRSV)

Testing the Spirits

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. Little children, you are from God and have conquered them, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not

from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

God Is Love

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Scripture - John 15:26-16:15 (NRSV)

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I have said these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

The Work of the Spirit

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the

Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Sermon - Spencer Bradford

Reflection on the Message

Everence Representative Sharing

Sharing Praise and Prayer Concerns

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 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 Everliving God. For your generous creating grace, for redemption from slavery and sin, and for calling your people into obedient love through your law, prophets, and apostles,

**Blessed are you, O God, holy and mighty.
who makes all things new!**

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,

in union with 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. 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. 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.

Sharing of Bread and Cup at the Lord's Table

Closing Hymn - #477 For the bread (HWB)

1 For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

2 By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.

3 In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Sending to Serve - #768 (HWB)