

Durham Mennonite Church

August 7, 2022



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

O Lord, our God, you are worthy of all our praise. You are the God who never fails to keep his promises. We thank you that in Jesus' life, death and resurrection we see your love, justice, mercy, provision and victory. You are the God who lifts up those who are weighed down. You are the God who provides for your children. Our desire is to praise you as long as we live. Inhabit our praises as we gather together today. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Call to Worship (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 - #199 O God you search me

O God, you search me, and you know me

All my thoughts lie open to your gaze

When I walk or lie down, you are before me

Ever the maker and keeper of my days

You know my resting and my rising

You discern my purpose from afar

And with love everlasting, you besiege me

In ev'ry moment of life or death, you are

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord

You have known its meaning through and

through

You are with me beyond my understanding

God of my present, my past and future, too

Although your Spirit is upon me

Still I search for shelter from your light

There is nowhere on Earth I can escape you

Even the darkness is radiant in your sight

For you created me and shaped me
Gave me life and knit me in the womb
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new

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 - #281 Joyful is the dark

Joyful is the dark,
holy, hidden God,
rolling cloud of night beyond all naming:
Majesty in darkness,
Energy of love,
Word-in-Flesh, the mystery proclaiming.

Joyful is the dark
Spirit of the deep,
winging wildly o'er the world's creation,

silken sheen of midnight
plumage black and bright,
swooping with the beauty of a raven.

Joyful is the dark,
shadowed stable floor;
angels flicker, God on earth confessing,
as with exultation,
Mary, giving birth,
hails the infant cry of need and blessing.

Joyful is the dark
coolness of the tomb,
waiting for the wonder of the morning;
never was that midnight
touched by dread and gloom:
darkness was the cradle of the dawning.

Joyful is the dark
depth of love divine,
roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,
holy, haunting beauty,

living, loving God.
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story!

Virginia Mennonite Conference Sharing

Scripture - Exodus 33:17-34:9

The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will

put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

Moses Makes New Tablets

The Lord said to Moses, “Cut two tablets of stone like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets, which you broke. Be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai and present yourself there to me, on the top of the mountain. No one shall come up with you, and do not let anyone be seen throughout all the mountain; and do not let flocks or herds graze in front of that mountain.” So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the former ones; and he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tablets of stone. The Lord

descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name, "The Lord." The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. He said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked

people, pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”

Scripture - Luke 9:23-36

Then he said to them all, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit them if they gain the whole world but lose or forfeit themselves? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. Indeed, truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

The Transfiguration

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said,

“This is my Son, my Chosen;listen to him!”
When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Scripture - 1 Timothy 6:11-16

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord

Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

**Sermon – “The Invisible Light of the Hidden God”
Spencer Bradford**

Congregational Response

Sharing praises and prayer concerns

THE 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.

Sharing of Bread and Cup at the Lord's Table

Hymn - #814 O God beyond all praising

O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your Word,
we honor and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.

The flower of earthly splendor
in time must surely die,

its fragile bloom surrender
to you the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature
the eternal seed is sown -
though small in mortal stature,
to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ the Man from heaven
from death has set us free,
and we through him are given
the final victory!

Then hear, O gracious Savior,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor
may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,

we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.

Benediction (Jude 24 -25)

Now to him who is able
to keep you from stumbling
and to present you blameless
before the presence of his glory with great joy,
to the only God, our Savior,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,
before all time and now and forever. Amen.—
Jude 24–25