

Durham Mennonite Church

September 4, 2022



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Sing praises to God, O faithful ones.
Give thanks and proclaim God's holy name.
Weeping or joyful, mourning or dancing,
come as you are, for all are welcome here.
Open your hearts to healing, to life restored.
Let us sing and worship together in this place
Knowing God is near.

Hymn - #1 What is this place (HWB)

What is this place, where we are meeting?

Only a house, the earth its floor.

Walls and a roof, sheltering people,

Windows for light, an open door.

Yet it becomes a body that lives

When we are gathered here,

And know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling.

Sparks that are sown in us like seed;

Names for our God,

dreams, signs and wonders

Sent from the past are all we need.

We in this place remember and speak

Again what we have heard:

God's free redeeming Word.

And we accept bread at his table,

Broken and shared, a living sign.

Here in this world, dying and living,

We are each other's bread and wine.

This is the place where we can receive

What we need to increase:

God's justice and God's peace.

Hymn - #26 Holy Spirit, come with power (WB)

Holy Spirit, come with power,
breathe into our aching night.
We expect you this glad hour,
waiting for your strength and light.
We are fearful, we are ailing,
we are weak and selfish too.
Break upon your congregation,
give us vigor, life anew.

Holy Spirit, come with fire,
burn us with your presence new.
Let us as one mighty choir
sing our hymn of praise to you.
Burn away our wasted sadness
and enflame us with your love.
Burst upon your congregation,
give us gladness from above.

Holy Spirit, bring your message,
burn and breathe each word anew
deep into our tired living
till we strive your work to do.
Teach us love and trusting kindness,
lend our hands to those who hurt.
Breathe upon your congregation
and inspire us with your word.

Confession of Sin

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.
In your name we pray,
amen.

Hymn - #570 Trust and Obey (VT)

When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his Word

What a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

**Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.**

Not a shadow can rise,
not a cloud in the skies,
But his smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear,
not a sigh nor a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

**Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.**

Ev'ry burden we bear,
Ev'ry sorrow we share,
All our toil he doth richly repay;
Even grief, pain and loss,
As we carry a cross,
Will be blessed as we trust and obey.

**Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.**

But we never can prove
the delights of his love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor he shows,
and the joy he bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

**Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.**

Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
Or we'll walk by his side in the way;
What he says we will do,
where he sends we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.

**Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.**

Scripture - Deuteronomy 30:15-20

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and

length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Scripture - Philemon 1-22

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus,
and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our
sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus,
and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Love and Faith

I thank my God always when I mention you in
my prayers, because I hear of your love for all
the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus.
I pray that the partnership of your faith may
become effective as you comprehend all the

good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

Paul's Plea for Onesimus

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he

was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

Scripture - Luke 14:12-33

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Parable of the Great Dinner

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, “Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” Then Jesus said to him, “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ But they

all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'

The Cost of Discipleship

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of

peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

**Sermon – “The Invitation Test”
Spencer Bradford**

Congregational response

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.

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 Ever-living 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.

For your Son Jesus Christ, our healer,
redeemer, and teacher; for his call to faith
and discipleship; for his death and
resurrection to bring forgiveness while we
were your enemies killing him; for life in his
Spirit, following his way of freedom 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 after your example, carrying the cross 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 your glory. 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.

Hymn - #471 Eat this bread (HWB)

Eat this bread; drink this cup.

Come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread; drink this cup.

Trust in me and you will not thirst.

Sharing of Bread and Cup at the Lord's Table

Closing Hymn - #759 Take life my life (VT)

Take my life and let it be

Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days,

Let them flow in ceaseless praise,

Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my intellect and use,
Ev'ry power as thou shalt choose.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine,
It shall be no longer mine.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Sending to Serve - #768 (HWB)

Eternal Lord,
as we leave this place
of worship and communion
may we go,
knowing that you never leave or forsake us.
Help us to go with the song of our lives,
the protection of the Spirit beside us
and the security of our presence beneath us.
Amen.

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