

Durham Mennonite Church

January 8, 2023



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Worship Meeting Thursday, January 12th

Church Council meeting, January 15th

Call to Worship

Welcome to worship this day!

We have come seeking God's blessings and love.

They shall be given to you.

We have come seeking forgiveness and healing.

These will be offered to you.

Open your hearts to receive God's Good News.

We open our hearts

to all of God's words and ways for us. AMEN.

Hymn - Praise to the Lord, Almighty

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roxlm_gCb7c

Hymn - Amazing Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di9HZMIcVCU>

Hymn - Children of the heavenly Father

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1Le7-y9xVI>

Confession of Sin

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord.

We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires.

Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence.

Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance.

Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.

Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be.

Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord. AMEN.

Scripture - Isaiah 42:1-9

The Servant of the Lord

1

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.

2

He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.

3

A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

4

he will not falter or be discouraged

till he establishes justice on earth.

In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

5

This is what God the Lord says—

the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,

who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,

who gives breath to its people,

and life to those who walk on it:

6

“I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;

I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you

to be a covenant for the people

and a light for the Gentiles,

7

to open eyes that are blind,

to free captives from prison

and to release from the dungeon those who sit in
darkness.

8

“I am the Lord; that is my name!

I will not yield my glory to another

or my praise to idols.

9

See, the former things have taken place,

and new things I declare;

before they spring into being

I announce them to you.”

Scripture - Matthew 3:13-17

The Baptism of Jesus

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Scripture – Acts 10:34-43

34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

39 “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, 40 but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. 41 He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Litany for Acts 10:34-43

Those who were once intolerably unclean to us,

They shall pass through the waters of baptism,

They shall be welcomed and embraced.

Those who once oppressed us, and with the iron of cruelty,

They shall be filled with the Holy Spirit.

They shall be claimed as Heaven's chosen.

Those who once swore allegiance to an emperor drunk on power and pride,

They shall be our next of kin.

**They shall sit in honor at the banquet of forgiveness
and love.**

All: Lord, only make us worthy to be there with them!

Hymn - O healing river

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTnqDpmgKYE>

Sermon – Jonathan Larson

Reflection on the sermon

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.

Hymn - Go Tell it on the Mountain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlgOpqwkWFk>

Benediction

Go forth joyfully! God is with you.
Bring peace and hope to all you meet.
And may God's eternal love
shine through you always. AMEN.