

Durham Mennonite Church

February 19, 2023



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Holy One, Light of light, God of all creation,
long ago you showed yourself
to the disciples in Jesus' transfiguration—
his face glowing like a field of daffodils
on a bright, spring morning.

Shine in us, around us, and through us,
that the world may see your glory
in the faces of your people—
faces transfigured in the light of your love. Amen.

Call to Worship (Exodus 24, Matthew 17)

As God called to Moses from the mountain,

we are called to be God's people.

As Jesus called the disciples to climb with him

to the peak of another mountain,

we are called to follow wherever he leads.

As the disciples stood in awe at the sound of God's voice,

we are called to worship in wonder and praise!

Hymn - HWB #644

When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies
my heart awakening cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
to him I cast my care:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind,
A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Or fades my earthly bliss,
my comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

The night becomes as day
when from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

In heav'n's eternal bliss
the loveliest strains is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised

Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Hymn - HWB #334

Christ is the World's True Light

Christ is the world's true light,
Its captain of salvation,
The daystar clear and bright
Of every man and nation;
New life, new hope awakes
for all who own His sway:

Freedom her bondage breaks,
And night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,
Their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete,
From sunrise to its setting:
When Christ is throned as Lord,
All shall forsake their fear,
To plowshare beat the sword,
To pruning hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great name
Unite us all who own you,
Cast out our pride and shame
That hinder to enthrone you;

The world has waited long,
Has labored long in pain,
To heal its ancient wrong,
Come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

Hymn - HWB #646

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

O splendor of God's glory bright,
From light eternal bringing light;
Thou Light of Lights, light's living spring,
True Day, all days illumining.

Come, very Sun of Heaven's love,
in lasting radiance from above,
and pour the Holy Spirit's ray
on all we think or do today

Confirm our will to do the right,
and keep our hearts from eny's blight.
Let faith her eager fires renew,
and hate the false and love the true.

Be hallow'd this and every day;
let meekness be our morning ray,
and faithful love our noonday light.
our hope, our sunset, calm and bright.

O Lord, with each returning morn
thine image to our hearts is borne.
Oh, may we ever clearly see
our Savior and our God in thee.

Confession of Sin (Exodus 24, Matthew 17)

Though we want to walk with Moses

and see God's holy radiance,

we hide in the mist of our own desires,

unable to perceive the presence of God's grace.

While we want a world of justice and peace,

we walk in clouds of selfishness,

unable to share God's loving-kindness.

Though we want to follow Jesus up the mountain,

we cower in fear,

unable to bear the light of God.

Assurance of Grace (Matthew 17)

In the blazing light of God's grace,

Jesus touches us to say,

“Get up and do not be afraid.”

In the name of Christ, all is forgiven. Amen.

Hymn - HWB #13 - Blessed Jesus, At Your Word

Blessed Jesus, at your word

we are gathered all to hear you.

Let our hearts and souls be stirred

now to seek and love and fear you.

By your gospel pure and holy,

teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
you must work all good within us.

Glorious Lord, yourself impart;
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
open lips and ears and heart;
help us by your Spirit's leading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Scripture - Exodus 24:12–18

12 The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.”

13 Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. 14 He said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.”

15 When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, 16 and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. 17 To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. 18 Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Scripture - 2 Peter 1:16–21

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never

had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Scripture – Matthew 17:1–13

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

¹⁰ The disciples asked him, “Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

¹¹ Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. ¹² But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” ¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Sermon – Jonathan Robie

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 - HWB #419

Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

Lead on, O cloud of Presence,
the exodus is come.

In wilderness and desert
our tribe shall make its home.

Our slavery left behind us,
new hopes within us grow.

We seek the land of promise
where milk and honey flow.

Lead on, O fiery Pillar,
we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing
though joy be born of tears.

We are not lost, though wandering,
for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people.
The journey is our home.

Lead on, O God of freedom,
and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise
through struggle and delay.

We pray our sons and daughters
may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy,
and love is law's demand.

Sending (2 Peter 1, Matthew 17)

Walk in light and truth.

See the light of Christ in every face.

Be the light of Christ to all you meet. Amen.