

Durham Mennonite Church

March 12, 2023



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Crop Walk – April 2

Urban Ministries Dinner – March 31

Opening Prayer

Loving and caring God,
we come this morning in hope —
hope that will sustain us in our trying times,
our lonely times, our doubting times.
Refresh us this morning with the living water
of your presence and love.
Open us to the possibilities —
the possibilities of encountering you
in unexpected ways,
the possibilities of seeing the miraculous
in everyday life. Amen.

Call to Worship (Psalm 95, Romans 5)

O come, let us sing to our God

and make a joyful noise

to the rock of our salvation.

We lift our hearts and voices

in joy and thanksgiving

for being here together

in the presence of our beloved God.

Come, let us worship this amazing God,

for we belong to God.

Come, listen for God's word

and live in the hope it inspires!

Hymn - Come, Let Us Praise the Lord

Come, let us praise the LORD,

with joy our God acclaim,

his greatness tell abroad

and bless his saving name.

Lift high your songs before his throne

to whom alone all praise belongs.

Our God of matchless worth,

our King beyond compare,

the deepest bounds of earth,

the hills, are in his care.

He all decrees, who by his hand

prepared the land and formed the seas.

In worship bow the knee,
our glorious God confess;
the great Creator, he,
the LORD our Righteousness.

He reigns unseen: his flock he feeds
and gently leads in pastures green.

Come, hear his voice today,
receive what love imparts;
his holy will obey
and harden not your hearts.

His ways are best and lead at last,
all troubles past, to perfect rest.

Hymn - VT #536

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say,

“Come unto me and rest;

lay down, O weary one,

lay down your head upon my breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was,

so weary, worn, and sad;

I found in him a resting place,

and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,

“Behold, I freely give

the living water, thirsty one;

stoop down and drink and live.”

I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched,
my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world's light.
Look unto me; your morn shall rise
and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk

till trav'ling days are done.

Hymn - VT #552

As a Deer in Want of Water

As a deer in want of water

So I long for you, O Lord.

All my heart and being falter,

Thirsting for your living Word.

When shall I behold your face?

When shall I receive your grace?

When shall I your praises voicing,

Come before you with rejoicing?

Bitter tears of lamentation

**Are my food by night and day.
In my deep humiliation,
“Where is now your God?” they say.
When my sorrows weigh on me,
Then I bring to memory,
How with throngs I would assemble,
Shouting praises in your temple.**

Why, my soul, are you so shaken?
Why does fear within you burn?
Hope will once again awaken,
Peace of mind will soon return.
Then, O God, for all my days,
I will lift my voice in praise,

You have shown your help and favor,
For you are my God and Savior.

Confession of Sin (Exodus 17)

Patient and ever-faithful God,
we come to you this morning
confessing that we can be a grumpy
and unsatisfied people.

When things are not perfect in our eyes,
we murmur and complain,

and grumble and doubt.

We lose hope in the people around us
and, even worse, we lose hope in you.

We challenge instead of accept.

We put you to the test

rather than trust your caring love.

Forgive our doubts and complaining.

Forgive our loss of hope.

Let your healing,

life-giving waters pour over us.

Restore our souls. Amen.

A

Assurance of Grace

(Exodus 17, Romans 5, John 4)

Our hope and assurance

rest in God's unfailing love and forgiveness.

Open your hearts and minds and souls

that the healing waters

of God's never-ending love and forgiveness

may flow into and over you.

Know that in this love and forgiveness

you have encountered the living God.

Hymn - 563 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

**Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,**

safely to arrive at home.

**Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fether,
bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Scripture - Exodus 17:1-7

Water from the Rock

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded.

They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people?"

They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Scripture - Psalm 95

A Call to Worship and Obedience

1 O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation!

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of
praise!

3 For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

6 O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

7 For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

9 when your ancestors tested me,

and put me to the proof,
though they had seen my work.

10 For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways.”

11 Therefore in my anger I swore,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

Scripture - Romans 5:1-11

Results of Justification

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and

character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died

for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Scripture - John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, **"Give me a drink."** (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that

you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with

his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”

The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus

said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and

truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that
Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ).

“When he comes, he will proclaim all things to
us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is
speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were
astonished that he was speaking with a woman,
but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why
are you speaking with her?” Then the woman
left her water jar and went back to the city. She

said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah,^e can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him,

“Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, **“I have food to eat that you do not know about.”**

So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, **“My food is to do the will of him**

who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did

not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have

heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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 - Fill My Cup, Lord

Like the woman at the well,

I was seeking

For things that could not satisfy.

And then I heard my Savior speaking—

“Draw from My well
that never shall run dry.”

**Fill my cup, Lord;
I lift it up Lord;
Come and quench
this thirsting of my soul.**

**Bread of Heaven,
feed me till I want no more.**

**Fill my cup,
fill it up and make me whole.**

There are millions in this world
who are seeking

For pleasures earthly goods afford.
But none can match
the wondrous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord.

**Fill my cup, Lord;
I lift it up Lord;
Come and quench
this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of Heaven,
feed me till I want no more.
Fill my cup,
fill it up and make me whole.**

So my brother if the things that this
world gives you
Leave hungers that won't pass away,
My blessed Lord will come and save you
If you kneel to Him and humbly pray—

**Fill my cup, Lord;
I lift it up Lord;
Come and quench
this thirsting of my soul.**

**Bread of Heaven,
feed me till I want no more.**

**Fill my cup,
fill it up and make me whole.**

Sending (Exodus 17, Romans 5, John 4)

We have encountered the living God
through the love of the living Christ.

We have been refreshed by living water.

Go now to live in the hope
this encounter inspires.

Be water bearers to a dry and parched world,
knowing that the God of love and hope
goes before you and with you always. Amen.