

# **Durham Mennonite Church**

March 26, 2023



**Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church**

# **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Opening Prayer (Psalm 130, John 11)**

God of life, present and promised,  
you are the One to whom we call:  
for you are the One who hears,  
and you are the One who acts,  
bringing us new life like Lazarus  
with your grace and love and power.  
Lead us in our time of worship,  
that we may be prepared to follow your lead  
in places where life is at risk—  
places where hope seems far away.  
When we leave these walls,  
help us live the teachings we proclaim  
within this place of worship,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Call to Worship**

Lazarus, though dead, was called to life by Jesus.

**May we be called to the light of righteousness.**

As others witnessed this resurrection,

they believed in Jesus.

**May we, who have heard, believe in the power  
of Jesus to conquer our fears and doubts.**

Praise be to God who has given us Jesus.

**Praise be to Jesus who has given us life. AMEN.**

## **Hymn - #8 HWB Brethren, We Have Met To Worship**

Verse 1

Brethren we have met to worship,

And adore the Lord our God;

Will you pray with all your power,

While we try to preach the Word?

All is vain unless the Spirit  
Of the Holy One comes down  
Brethren, pray, & holy manna  
Will be showered all around.

Verse 2

Sisters, will you join and help us?  
Moses' sister aided him;  
Will you help the trembling mourners  
Who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior  
Tell them that He will be found!  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna  
Will be showered all around.

### Verse 3

Is there a trembling jailer,  
Seeking grace and filled with fears?

Is there a weeping Mary  
pouring forth a flood of tears?

Brethren, join your cries to help them

Sisters, let your prayers abound!

Pray, oh pray, and holy manna

Will be showered all around.

### Verse 4

Let us love our God supremely,

Let us love each other, too;

Let us love and pray for sinners,

'Till our God makes all things new.

Christ will call us home to Heaven  
At His table we'll sit down.  
Christ will gird Himself and serve us  
With sweet manna all around.

### **Hymn - #236 HWB O Love, How Deep, How Broad**

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
it fills the heart with ecstasy,  
that God, the Son of God, should take  
our mortal form for mortals' sake!

2. For us he was baptized, and bore  
his holy fast and hungered sore,  
for us temptation sharp he knew;  
for us the tempter overthrew.

3. For us he prayed; for us he taught;  
for us his daily works he wrought;

by words and signs and actions thus  
still seeking not himself, but us.

4. For us to wicked hands betrayed,  
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death,  
for us at length gave up his breath.

5. Eternal glory to our God  
for love so deep, so high, so broad.  
the Trinity whom we adore  
forever and forever more.

### **Hymn - #609 HWB Awake my Soul**

Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,  
And press with vigor on;  
A heav'nly race demands thy zeal,  
And an immortal crown,  
And an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around  
Holds thee in full survey;  
Forget the steps already trod,  
And onward urge thy way,  
And onward urge thy way.

'Tis God's all-animating voice  
That calls thee from on high;  
'Tis Gods own hand presents the prize  
To thine aspiring eye,  
To thine aspiring eye.

That prize with peerless glories bright  
Which shall new luster boast  
when victor's wreaths and monarch's gems  
shall blend in common dust  
shall blend in common dust.

Bless'd Savior, introduced by Thee,  
Have I my race begun;  
And, crowned with vict'ry, at Thy feet



I'll lay my honors down,  
I'll lay my honors down.

## **Prayer of Confession**

God, we confess that we are frightened by death. We don't want to experience the loss of loved ones who are dear to us. The sisters of Lazarus longed for him to be alive again. Jesus' power to resurrect Lazarus confuses us.

We long for that type of healing for our loved ones. And so, when their bodies cannot be healed and they die, we are tempted to slip away from our faith, in our sorrow.

**Give us courage to face our fear. Give us awareness that you have offered to all those who have gone before us, a place in your kingdom. Help us move away from the prison of death to the light of eternal life and hope. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

## **Assurance of Grace**

Though darkness and death appear all around,  
there is the comforting healing light of God's  
love shining on you and in you. Feel the warmth  
of the presence of God and let go of your fear,  
for God is with you. AMEN.

## **Hymn - #136 HWB From The Depths of Sin**

From the depth of sin and sadness  
I have called unto the Lord;  
be not deaf to my poor pleading,  
in Your mercy, hear my voice.  
Be not deaf to my poor pleading,  
in Your mercy, hear my voice.

If you, Lord, record our sinning,  
who could then before You stand?  
But with You there is forgiveness;  
You shall ever be revered.  
But with You there is forgiveness;  
You shall ever be revered.

For the Lord my heart is waiting,  
for God's word I hope and wait.  
More than watchmen wait for sunrise  
I am waiting for the Lord.  
More than watchmen wait for sunrise  
I am waiting for the Lord.

## **Scripture Reading - Ezekiel 37:1-14**

### *The Valley of Dry Bones*

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord

GOD, you know.” Then he said to me,  
“Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O  
dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus  
says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause  
breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will  
lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to  
come upon you, and cover you with skin, and  
put breath in you, and you shall live; and you  
shall know that I am the LORD.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded;  
and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a  
noise, a rattling, and the bones came  
together, bone to its bone. I looked, and  
there were sinews on them, and flesh had  
come upon them, and skin had covered them;  
but there was no breath in them. Then he  
said to me, "Prophecy to the breath,  
prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus

says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds,  
O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that  
they may live.” I prophesied as he  
commanded me, and the breath came into  
them, and they lived, and stood on their feet,  
a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones  
are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our  
bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we

are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy,  
and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am  
going to open your graves, and bring you up  
from your graves, O my people; and I will  
bring you back to the land of Israel. And you  
shall know that I am the LORD, when I open  
your graves, and bring you up from your  
graves, O my people. I will put my spirit  
within you, and you shall live, and I will place



you on your own soil; then you shall know  
that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,”  
says the LORD.

## **Scripture Reading - Psalm 130**

*Waiting for Divine Redemption*

**A Song of Ascents.**

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

2 Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

4 But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

6 my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

8 It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities.

## **Scripture Reading - Romans 8:6-11**

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ

does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

# Scripture Reading - John 11:1-45 NRSV

## The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of

Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister

Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the

Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her

hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters

sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you

love is ill.” 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said,

“This illness does not lead to death; rather it is

for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be

glorified through it.” 5 Accordingly, though

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,

6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he

stayed two days longer in the place where he

was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” 8 The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” 9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble,



because the light is not in them.” 11 After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” 12 The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told

them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake

I am glad I was not there, so that you may

believe. But let us go to him.” 16 Thomas, who

was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples,

“Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

### *Jesus the Resurrection and the Life*

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus

had already been in the tomb four days. 18

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that

God will give you whatever you ask of him.” 23

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise

again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the

life. Those who believe in me, even though they

die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and

believes in me will never die. Do you believe

**this?"** 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

### *Jesus Weeps*

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and

went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his

feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34

He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, “See how he

loved him!” 37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

### *Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life*

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said



to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because

he has been dead four days.” 40 Jesus said to

her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you

would see the glory of God?” 41 So they took

away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and

said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have

said this for the sake of the crowd standing

here, so that they may believe that you sent  
me.” 43 When he had said this, he cried with a  
loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead  
man came out, his hands and feet bound with  
strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth.  
Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him  
go.”

*The Plot to Kill Jesus*

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come  
with Mary and had seen what Jesus did,  
believed in him.

**Sermon – Kevin Nice**



MadainProject  
<https://madainproject.com>







## **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.



## **Hymn - #614 HBW**

### **In the Bulb There is a Flower**

In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;

what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

## **Sending**

Lord, unbind us from our fears and doubts.  
As we go from this place of worship,  
be with us in our witness to the power  
and love of Jesus Christ. AMEN.