

# **Durham Mennonite Church**

April 16, 2023



**Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church**

# Welcome and Announcements

## Opening Prayer

Stand among us once again, Risen Christ,  
and bless us with your greeting:

**"Peace be with you."**

Stand among us once again,  
and breathe upon us your promised Spirit.

Stand among us once again,  
You Who Have Escaped Death,  
and give us new birth  
into your living hope. Amen.

## **Call to Worship - (1 Peter 1, John 20)**

If we are the disciples, locked in a room of fear,  
**Jesus appears to us.**

If we are Thomas, full of doubt,  
**Jesus turns to us.**

If we bear trials and suffering,  
**God comes to us in power.**

If we rejoice, we do so in the presence of God.  
**So let us come, whoever we are,  
to the God of hope and life.**

## **Hymn - VT #435 Blessed Assurance**

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.

Angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.

I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

### **Hymn - VT #436 How Great Thou Art**

1 O Lord, my God, when I in awesome  
wonder

consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

**Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

2 When through the woods  
and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down  
from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook  
and feel the gentle breeze;  
**Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**  
**Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

3 And when I think that God,  
his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
he bled and died to take away my sin;  
**Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**  
**Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:**

**How great thou art! How great thou art!**

4 When Christ shall come  
with shout of acclamation  
and take me home,  
what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim:

"My God, how great thou art!"

**Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**Hymn - VT #701 You Are All We Have**

You are all we have.

You give us what we need.

Our lives are in your hands, O God,

our lives are in your hands.

## **Unison Prayer (Acts 2, Psalm 16, John 20)**

Jesus, Savior, Resurrected Messiah,  
we come before you from different paths:  
some of us certain  
of your joyful presence in our lives,  
some of us not so certain  
of the hope of being touched by your joy.  
Yet we are all here,  
reaching out to you:  
for understanding,  
for hope,  
for joy,  
for all that is imperishable.  
Meet us here, today,  
in all your power and consolation. Amen.



## **Hymn - VT #588 We Walk By Faith**

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight,  
no gracious words we hear  
from him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
but we believe him near.

2 We may not touch his hands and side,  
nor follow where he trod;  
yet in his promise we rejoice  
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near,  
and seek where you are found.

4 that when our life of faith is done  
in realms of clearer light

we may behold you as you are  
in full and endless sight

5 We walk by faith and not by sight;  
no gracious words we hear  
from one who spoke as none e'er spoke  
but we believe him near.

### **Scripture - Acts 2:14a, 22–32**

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man

was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him:

“ ‘I saw the Lord always before me.  
Because he is at my right hand,  
I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is  
glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also  
will rest in hope, because you will not  
abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
you will not let your holy one see decay.  
You have made known to me the paths of  
life; you will fill me with joy in your  
presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath

that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

## **Scripture - Psalm 16**

A miktam of David.

1 Keep me safe, my God,  
for in you I take refuge.

2 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;  
apart from you I have no good thing."

3 I say of the holy people who are in the land,  
"They are the noble ones in whom is all my

delight.”

4 Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.

5 LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup;  
you make my lot secure.

6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

7 I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.

8 I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue

rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

### **Scripture - 1 Peter 1:3-9**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is

ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## **Scripture - John 20:19-31**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood

among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my



finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are

written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## **Sermon – Jonathan Robie**

## **Congregational Response**

## **Prayers of God's People**

## **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 - VT #671**

### **The Hand of God Shall Hold You**

The hand of God shall hold you,  
the peace of God enfold you,  
the love that dreamed and formed you,  
still surrounds you here today;

The light of God beside you,  
above, beneath, inside you,  
the light that shines to guide you home  
to the loving hand of God.

## **Benediction - (Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1, John 20)**

In great mercy,

God has given us a new birth  
into a living hope.

For it is the risen Christ  
who stands in our midst and says,  
**"Peace be with you!"**

Let's go forth to walk the path  
of new life and living hope.

May the peace of the risen Christ be with us!