

Durham Mennonite Church

April 2, 2023



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

In Case I Forget to Say It Enough

By Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Thank you for this day made
of wind and rain and sun and the scent
of old-fashioned lilacs. Thank you

for the pond and the slippery tadpole
and the wild iris that opened beside the pond
last week, so pale, so nearly purple,
their stems already flagged and bent.

Thank you for the yellow morels hiding in the field grass,
the ones we can only see when we are already
on our knees. And thank you for the humming
that rises out of the morning as if mornings
are simply reasons to hum. What a gift,
this being alive, this chance to encounter the world.
What a gift, this being a witness to spring—
spring in everything. Spring in the way
that we greet each other. Spring in the way the golden
eagle

takes to the thermals and spirals up to where
we can barely see the great span of its wings.
Spring in the words we have known
since our births. Like glory. Like celebrate.

Call to Worship (Litany by Jonathan Larson)

Lift Up Your Heads (from Psalm 24)

Who is this arriving in peasant company
midst shout and song?

***Lift up your heads, o, you gates,
And be lifted up, o, ancient doors.***

Who is this riding for mount a village donkey?

***Lift up your heads, o, you gates,
And be lifted up, o, ancient doors.***

Who is this received with palms,
Cobblestone clatter muffled with cloaks?

***Lift up your heads, o, you gates,
And be lifted up, o, ancient doors!***

Who is this embraced as royalty?
Where the brocade, the wreath and staff?
Where the underlings in livery?

***Lift up your heads, o, you gates,
And be lifted up, o, ancient doors!***

Who is this who enters the city

As though a long-lost inheritance?

*Lift up your heads, o, you gates,
And be lifted up, o, ancient doors,
So the king of glory may come in!*

Hymn - VT #315 – All Glory, Laud and Honor

**All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

1 Thou art the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name cometh,
the King and blessed One.

**All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

2 The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.

**All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

3 Thou didst accept their praises,
accept our hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.

**All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,**

**to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

Hymn - VT #410 – Christ is King!

1. Christ is King! Let earthly powers,
wealth, dominion, state and crown,
here before the Servant Saviour
praise and worship and kneel down.

Jesus reigns: a cross exalts him;
suffering is the royal gown.

2. Christ is King! O saints be joyful;
grace and justice will be shown,
weakness lifted into glory,
pride and greed cast from their throne.
Jesus reigns: the once rejected
has become the Cornerstone.

3. Christ is King! Death's power is ended;
now there is no need for fear.
Love and love alone redeems us,
wipes away our guilt and tears.
Jesus reigns: the Lamb once slaughtered
in abundant life appears.

Hymn - VT #313 – Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Hosanna, loud hosanna

the little children sang;

through pillared court and temple

the lovely anthem rang.

To Jesus, who had blessed them,

close folded to his breast,

the children sang their praises,

the simplest and the best.

2 From Olivet they followed

mid an exultant crowd,

the victory palm branch waving,

and chanting clear and loud.

The Lord of earth and heaven

rode on in lowly state,

nor scorned that little children

should on his bidding wait.

3 "Hosanna in the highest!"

That ancient song we sing,

for Christ is our Redeemer,

the Lord of heaven, our King.

O may we ever praise him

with heart and life and voice,

and in his blissful presence

eternally rejoice.

Prayer of Confession - Read in Unison

O God, we stand at the gate,
hesitant and uncertain;
we are reluctant to answer your invitation;
we are slow to embark on the journey
toward your reign.

Forgive us, we pray.

Grant us the help we need to be your people—
the courage to join you in the procession;
the selflessness to lay our cloaks before you;
the freedom to lift our palms to your glory;
and the knowledge that by your grace
we are forgiven. Amen!

Assurance of Pardon

Hear this good news! The procession is ever
moving forward. We can join in at any moment.
The invitation still stands!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Glory to God! Amen!

Hymn - This is the Day the Lord Has Made (Joy Patterson) Psalm 118

1 This is the day the Lord has made;
In it will we rejoice,
praising God's everlasting love
with heart and mind and voice.

2 God is my refuge and my strength,
my might, my joy, my song,
my shield, salvation, sure defense
throughout my whole life long.

3 Open the gates of righteousness,
Lord, let me enter there,
that I may lift my thanks to you
in hymn and song and prayer.

4 See now the wonder God has done:
the once rejected stone
has now become the cornerstone,
the Lord's own Chosen One.

5 Blest is the One who comes to us
in God our maker's name,
bringing to us God's life and light,
to every age the same.

6 This is the day the Lord has made;
in it will we rejoice,
praising God's everlasting love
with heart and mind and voice.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

A Song of Victory

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.^c

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the LORD.^d

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.^e

²⁸ You are my God,

and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Scripture - Phillipians 2:5-11

5 Let the same mind be in you

that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8 he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Scripture – Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

When they had come near Jerusalem and had
reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives,

Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Sermon – Jonathan Larson

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 - VT #316 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!

As all the crowds hosanna cry;
through waving branches slowly ride,
O Savior, to be crucified.

2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!

In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, your triumph now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!

The angel armies of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes

to see the approaching sacrifice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!

Your last and fiercest foe defy;

bow your meek head to mortal pain,

then take, O God, your power and reign.

Benediction (Matthew 27:54)

“Truly this man Jesus was God’s Son.”

As disciples of Jesus,

truly you are God’s children.

Go into this week with the knowledge

that resurrection will come,

even when it seems there is no tomorrow.

Be blessed and be a blessing,

with the courage to stand with those in need.

In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and
Sustainer.

Amen.