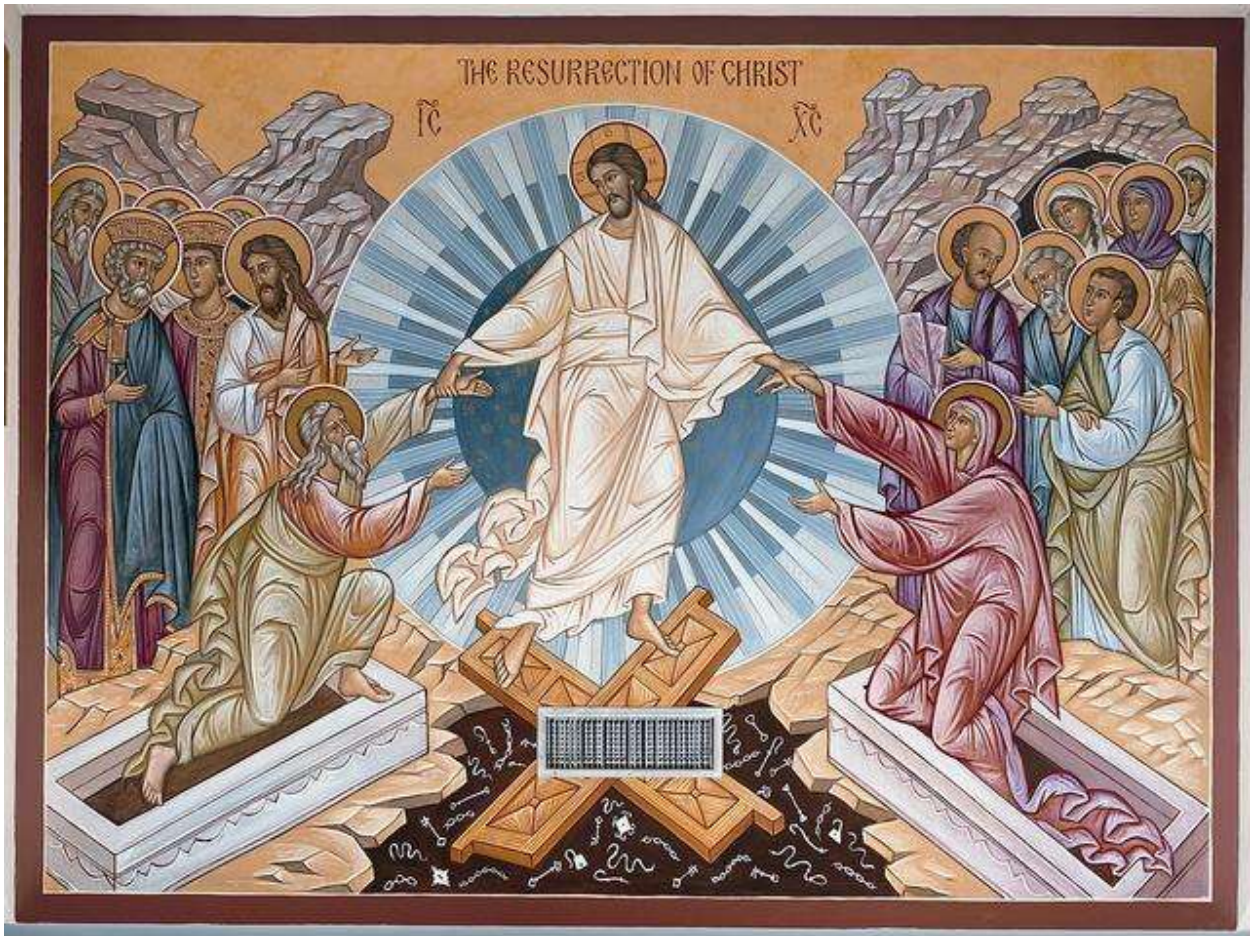


Durham Mennonite Church

April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Glorious Lord of life, you have raised us this morning to celebrate anew the mighty resurrection of your Son, through whom you overcame the old order of sin and death, and opened to us the gate of everlasting life.

Grant that as we worship with joy at Christ's rising from the dead, we also may be raised from the death of sin to the life of grace in the renewing power of your Spirit, and declare your good news to bring your life to the world. We pray this in the name of our risen Lord Jesus. Amen.

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 26:17-19)

As a woman with child, when she is near her time of delivery, turns and cries out in her pain, so are we because of you, O Lord.

We have given birth only to wind, and have not won victory on earth; and the people of the world have not yet come to life.

But your dead shall live, and their bodies shall rise.

Awake and shout for joy, you who dwell in the dust! For your dew is like morning dew on new grass, and the earth will give birth to her dead!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn - VT #333 - Low in the Grave He Lay

1 Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever,
with his saints to reign.

He arose! (He arose!)

He arose! (He arose!)

Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2 Vainly they watch his bed,
Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever,
with his saints to reign.

He arose! (He arose!)

He arose! (He arose!)

Hallelujah! Christ arose!

3 Death cannot keep its prey,
Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,

and he lives forever,
with his saints to reign.
He arose! (He arose!)
He arose! (He arose!)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Hymn - VT #350 - The Strife is O'ver

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped;
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head.
Alleluia!

Christ, by your wounds on Calvary,
from death's dread sting your servants free,
that we may live and sing to thee.
Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hymn - VT #355 – Thine is the Glory

Thine is the glory
Resurrected One
Endless is the victory
Now for us begun.

Angels clothed in glory
Rolled the stone away
Leaving only grave clothes
Where his body lay.

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory
Resurrected One
Endless is the victory
Now for us begun**

Lo! Jesus meets us
Risen from the tomb
Lovingly he greets us
Scatters fear and gloom
Let our doubting spirits
find a voice to sing
Christ who died is living;
death has lost it's sting.

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory
Resurrected One
Endless is the victory
Now for us begun**

Thine was the suff'ring
Mine the endless life.
Sin holds no dominion,
Love wins over strife.
What then shall I offer?
Songs that never cease!
Thou hast won the victory;
Glorious Prince of Peace.

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory
Resurrected One
Endless is the victory now for us begun.**

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace

By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.

To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy: What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

**O LORD, you have brought up my soul
from Sheol; you restored me to life from
among those who go down to the pit.**

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

**You have turned for me my mourning into
dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and
clothed me with gladness, that my glory
may sing your praise and not be silent.**

**O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you
forever!**

Hymn - VT #340 Lift Your Glad Voices

Lift your glad voice in triumph on high,
For Jesus has risen and we shall not die.

Vain were the terrors
that gathered around him,
And short the dominion
of death and the grave.

He burst from the fetters
of evil that bound him
resplendent in glory, to live and to save.
Loud was the chorus of angels on high,
The Savior has risen, and we shall not die.

Glory to God, in full anthems of joy;
The being God gave us, death cannot destroy.
Sad were the life we may part with
tomorrow,
If tears were our birthright
and death were our end.

But Jesus has cheered
the deep valley of sorrow,
And bade us, immortal, to heaven ascend.
Lift then your voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus has risen, and we shall not die.

Scripture – Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and

the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Scripture – Colossians 3:1-4

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your

life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Scripture – Matthew 27:57- 28:15

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I

will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do

not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of

money to the soldiers and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Sermon: A Stranger Story

Spencer Bradford

Congregational Response

Sharing for Prayer

Prayers of the People and 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.

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. We come in grateful celebration of Jesus' cross and resurrection, giving from our receiving, inviting as we have been invited, serving as we are served, renewing our bond to the narrow way of Jesus. There is room at his table for all who follow Jesus in God's covenant of grace and obedience.

The Lord is God, compassionate and gracious, overflowing in loving mercy and steadfast kindness. Blessed be God, now and forever!

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hills are now united on this table in bread and drink, so Lord, may we be made a true community of your Spirit as your Body on earth, and may your whole people soon be gathered together from across the earth in your Kingdom of holy peace.

Come, Lord Jesus! To you be glory forever!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise
to the Lord, because he is good;
his love is eternal.**

Truly, it is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to offer our praise, worship, and thanksgiving to you, Almighty and Ever-living God. For your generous creating grace, for redemption from slavery and sin when we have denied and left you, and for calling your people into obedient love through your law, prophets, and apostles,

Blessed are you, O God, holy and mighty.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. In the fullness of time, you gave him out of infinite love, to be our Savior and Lord, sent from your people Israel. He brought your

healing, mercy, and peace, and we rejected him with contempt and violence. He offered himself in love and accepted his baptism of suffering and death on the cross. By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb, and at his command the gates of hell were opened. The one who was dead now lives life eternal. The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation, the Lamb upon the throne. The one ascended on high is among us always, as he promised. We thank you that through him, you adopt us with new birth into your covenant family, by water and the Spirit, delivering us from slavery to sin and death, into a new covenant of peace and freedom. By your great mercy, we have been born anew to a living hope through your Son's resurrection, and to an inheritance that is pure and undying.

**Blessed are you, Creator Spirit,
who makes all things new!**

Come, Spirit of Christ, and fulfill the promise of your kingdom among us. For on the night that he was betrayed, during supper, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink from this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." So with praise and thanksgiving, we offer to you all these gifts and our very selves, received from your grace, to be a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's self-giving for us and for the whole world:

**We praise you, we bless you, we worship
and thank you, O Lord our God.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon this communion,
on us gathered here and on these gifts,

that the sharing of this bread and cup may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Sanctify and fill us with your true presence, that in all our lives we may be for the world the Body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. As we share your presence anew at this table of your giving, let us share your presence with the world in the giving of our lives and selves, in your loving service to all people. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one in fellowship with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until we feast together at your heavenly table with all your saints, who have gone through the shadow of the valley of death and await us at the resurrection.. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

AMEN.

Sharing of Bread and Cup at the Lord's Table

*As bread and drink are distributed,
we'll hold to partake together, and sing:*

**I am the bread of life
He who comes to me shall not hunger
He who believes in me shall not thirst
No one can come to me
Unless the father beckons
And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up,
On the last day.**

**The bread that I will give
Is my flesh for the life of the world
And if you eat of this bread
You shall live forever, you shall live forever.
And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up,**

**And I will raise you up,
On the last day.**

**I am the resurrection, I am the life
If you believe in me
Even though you die
You shall live forever.
And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up,
On the last day.**

**Yes, lord I believe
That you are the Christ
The son of God
Who has come into the world.
And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up,
On the last day.**

Hymn - VT #346 Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

All creation join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Jesus led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Christ, with Christ we rise,
Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in
the faith and power of his resurrection.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia!