

Durham Mennonite Church

June 11, 2023



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

How shall we love the Lord our God
who has poured out such love upon us?

**We shall love the Lord our God
with all our hearts, minds, souls, and spirit.**

How shall we demonstrate that love?

**We shall live out that love
in all that we do, think, and say.**

Let our love be genuine and holy.

Praise be to God who first loved us. AMEN.

Hymn - VT #7 Come Let Us All Unite to Sing

1 Come, let us all unite to sing,
God is love.

Let heav'n and earth their praises bring,
God is love.

Let ev'ry soul from sin awake,
let ev'ry heart sweet music make,
and sing with us for Jesus' sake,
for God is love.

God is love! God is love!

**Come, let us all unite to sing
that God is love.**

2 O tell to earth's remotest bound,
God is love.

In Christ we have redemption found,
God is love.

His blood has washed our sins away,
his Spirit turned our night to day,
and now we can rejoice to say
that God is love.

God is love! God is love!

**Come, let us all unite to sing
that God is love.**

3 What though our mortal flesh shall fail,
God is love!

Through Christ we shall o'er death prevail,
God is love!

While endless ages roll along,
we'll triumph with the heav'nly throng
and this shall be our sweetest song,
that God is love!

God is love! God is love!

**Come, let us all unite to sing
that God is love.**

4 How happy is our portion here,
God is love.

These promises our spirits cheer,
God is love.

God is our sun and shield by day,
our help, our hope, our strength and stay;
and will be with us all the way:

Our God is love.

God is love! God is love!

**Come, let us all unite to sing
that God is love.**

Hymn - VT #103 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;

Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

2 All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

3 Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Prayer of Confession

Father God,
you are the one who leads us
from darkness into light,
from captivity into freedom,
from anxiety into peace,
from despair into joy.

Yet we long to break free,
choosing independence,
convinced of our own wisdom,
forgetting your love and grace.

**Forgive us,
draw close to us,
embrace us once again
in your loving arms,
and enable us to follow you
in worship and grateful service
each day of our lives.**

Amen

Hymn - VT #417 Seek Ye First

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God

And His righteousness;

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;

Seek, and you shall find.

Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

3 We shall not live by bread and drink alone,

But by every word

That proceedeth from the mouth of God.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Scripture - 1 Corinthians 13 NRSV

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do

not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Scripture - Revelation 1:9-19 NRSV

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom,

priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the

earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the

Lord God, who is and who was and who is

to come, the Almighty.

A Vision of Christ

I, John, your brother who share with you in
Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the
patient endurance, was on the island called
Patmos because of the word of God and the
testimony of Jesus. I was in the spirit on the
Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice
like a trumpet saying, "Write in a book what
you see and send it to the seven churches, to

Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira,
to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that
spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden
lampstands, and in the midst of the
lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man,
clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash
across his chest. His head and his hair were
white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes
were like a flame of fire, his feet were like

burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, **“Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys**

of Death and of Hades. Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this.

Scripture - Revelation 2:1-7 NRSV

The Message to Ephesus

2 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. 3 I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember then from what you have fallen;

repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

Scripture – Revelation 2:12-17 NRSV

The Message to Pergamum

12 “And to the angel of the church in

Pergamum write: These are the words of him

who has the sharp two-edged sword:

13 “I know where you are living, where

Satan’s throne is. Yet you are holding fast to my

name, and you did not deny your faith in me^a

even in the days of Antipas my witness, my

faithful one, who was killed among you, where

Satan lives. **14** But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the people of Israel, so that they would eat food sacrificed to idols and practice fornication. **15** So you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16** Repent then. If not, I will come to you soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth. **17** Let anyone who has an ear listen to

what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.

**Sermon – “Return to Your First Love”
Jonathan Robie**

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 #133 My Jesus, I love thee

1 My Jesus, I love thee,
I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer,
my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

2 I love thee because thou
hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon
on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing
the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

3 In mansions of glory
and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering
crown on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Benediction - VT #1055