

# **Durham Mennonite Church**

July 16, 2023



**Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church**

# **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Opening Prayer**

O Lord, our God, we gather together today to give you thanks and praise your greatness. We praise your mighty works to the whole world. We praise you for your wonderful deeds. Your power is limitless, your wisdom is unparalleled, your grace is overwhelming, your love is never failing. You promised that you will never leave or forsake us. Let us worship you in spirit and truth. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## **Call to Worship - #857 VT**

Holy God,

you call us together

to reflect on your Word

and our life in your world.

Be with us now

as we sing and pray together,

that we may hear your voice

and understand your way.

This we pray

through Jesus, the Christ. Amen

## **Hymn - VT #752 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!**

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

## **Hymn - VT #606 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,

Pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but Thou art mighty;

Hold me with Thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven

Feed me till I want no more

Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing waters flow;  
Let the fiery and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, strong deliverer  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, Songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee.  
I will ever give to Thee.

## **Hymn - VT #703 Rain Down, Rain Down**

**RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,  
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE ON YOUR PEOPLE,  
RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,  
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE, GOD OF LIFE.**

**Faithful and true is the word of our God.  
All of God's works are so worthy of trust.  
God's mercy falls on the just and the  
right; full of God's love is the earth.**

**RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,  
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE ON YOUR PEOPLE,  
RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,  
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE, GOD OF LIFE.**

**We who revere and find hope in our God  
Live in the kindness and joy of God's wing.  
God will protect us from darkness and  
death; God will not leave us to starve.**

RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,  
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE ON YOUR PEOPLE,  
RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,  
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE, GOD OF LIFE.

**God of creation, we long for your truth;  
You are the water of life that we thirst,  
Grant that your love and your peace touch  
our hearts, all of our hope lies in you.**

RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,  
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE ON YOUR PEOPLE,  
RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,  
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE, GOD OF LIFE.

## **Prayer of Confession – VT #891**

For the times we have been lied to one another and the times we have been lied to,  
**Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**

For the times we have laughed at each others pain and the times we have been laughed at,

**Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**

For the times we have betrayed a friend and the times we have been betrayed

**Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**

For the times we have spoken when we should have remained silent and the times we have remained silent when we should have spoken,

**Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**



## **Hymn - VT #706 O Healing River**

Oh healing river send down your water  
Send down your water upon this land  
Oh healing river send down your waters  
And wash the blood from off the sand

This land is parching, this land is burning  
No seed is growing on the barren ground  
Oh healing river send down your waters  
Oh healing river send your water down

Let the seed of freedom awake and  
flourish

Let the deep roots nourish,  
let the tall stalks rise

Oh healing river send down your waters  
Oh healing river from out of the skies

## **An Invitation to Abundant Life (from Isaiah 55)**

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

**Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.**

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

**Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;**

Let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.**

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,**

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but

it shall accomplish that which I purpose and  
succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**For you shall go out in joy and be led back  
in peace; the mountains and the hills  
before you shall burst into song,  
And all the trees of the field  
Shall clap their hands.**

Instead of the thorn shall come up the  
cypress; instead of the brier shall come up  
the myrtle,

**and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut  
off.**

## **Hymn - VT #398 Thy Word is a Lamp**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid

Think I've lost my way

Still you're there right beside me

Nothing will I fear

As long as you are near

Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

and a light unto my path

I will not forget

Your love for me and yet

My heart forever is wandering

Jesus be my guide

And hold me to your side

I will love you to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.

## **Scripture - Psalm 119:105-112 NRSV**

**105 Your word is a lamp to my feet**

**and a light to my path.**

**106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,**

**to observe your righteous ordinances.**

**107 I am severely afflicted;**

**give me life, O LORD, according to your word.**

**108 Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,**

**and teach me your ordinances.**

**109 I hold my life in my hand continually,**

**but I do not forget your law.**

**110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,**

**but I do not stray from your precepts.**

**111 Your decrees are my heritage forever;**

**they are the joy of my heart.**

**112 I incline my heart to perform your**

**statutes forever, to the end.**



## **Scripture - Genesis 25:19-34 NRSV**

### **The Birth and Youth of Esau and Jacob**

These are the descendants of Isaac,  
Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of  
Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when  
he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel  
the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of  
Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the  
LORD for his wife, because she was barren;  
and the LORD granted his prayer, and his

wife Rebekah conceived. The children  
struggled together within her; and she said,  
“If it is to be this way, why do I live?” So she  
went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD  
said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,  
and two peoples born of you shall be  
divided; the one shall be stronger than the  
other, the elder shall serve the younger.”

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was

a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

## **Esau Sells His Birthright**

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was

famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!"

(Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said,

"First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I

am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

**Message - Jonathan Larson**



## **Congregational Response**

**Sharing Praises and Prayer Concerns**

**Prayers of the Church**

## **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#743 Just a Closer Walk with Thee**

Just a closer walk with Thee

Grant it, Jesus, is my plea

Daily walking close to Thee  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

I am weak but Thou art strong  
Jesus keep me from all wrong  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee

Through this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

When my feeble life is o'er  
Time for me will be no more



Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore

Just a closer walk with Thee  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea  
Daily walking close to Thee  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

**Benediction**