

# **Durham Mennonite Church**

July 2, 2023



**Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church**

# Welcome and Announcements

## Opening Prayer

Good and gracious God, you have raised us this morning to the light of your creation, and called us to renew our covenant of love with you through your good gifts of grain and vine. Fill us with grateful praise, and bind us to you in your new creation of faithful love and peace, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Call to Worship (from Psalm 89)

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among heavenly beings is like the LORD, a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?**

O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?

**The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.**

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

**Blessed are the people who give the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face, who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.**

## **Hymn - I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever**

**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,  
I will sing, I will sing,**

**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.**

**With my mouth will I make known**

**Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness,**

**With my mouth will I make known**

**Thy faithfulness to all generations,**

**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,**

**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.**

**All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise  
forever, for the things he has done.**

**All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise  
forever**

**All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise.**

**Who can be compared to God  
in faithfulness, in faithfulness?**

**Who can be compared to God  
in faithfulness to all generations?**

**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.**

## **HWB #154, This is My Father's World**

**1 This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--  
His hand the wonders wrought.**

**2 This is my Father's world:  
The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white,  
Declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world:  
He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,  
He speaks to me everywhere.**

**3 This is my Father's world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong  
    seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world:  
Why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!  
God reigns; let earth be glad!**

## **HWB #454, Seed Scattered and Sown**

**Seed, scattered and sown,  
wheat, gathered and grown,  
bread, broken and shared as one,  
the Living bread of God.**

**Vine, fruit of the land, wine,  
work of our hands, one cup that is  
shared by all; the Living Cup,  
the Living Bread of God.**

**Is not the bread we break,  
A sharing in our Lord?  
Is not the cup we bless,  
the blood of Christ outpoured?**

**Seed, scattered and sown,  
wheat, gathered and grown,  
bread, broken and shared as one,  
the Living bread of God.**

**Vine, fruit of the land, wine,  
work of our hands, one cup that is  
shared by all; the Living Cup,  
the Living Bread of God.**

**The seed which falls on rock  
will wither and will die,  
The seed within good ground  
will flower and have life.**

**Seed, scattered and sown,  
wheat, gathered and grown,  
bread, broken and shared as one,  
the Living bread of God.**

**Vine, fruit of the land, wine,  
work of our hands, one cup that is  
shared by all; the Living Cup,  
the Living Bread of God.**



**As wheat upon the hills  
was gathered and was grown,  
so may the Church of God  
be gathered into one**

**Seed, scattered and sown,  
wheat, gathered and grown,  
bread, broken and shared as one,  
the Living bread of God.**

**Vine, fruit of the land, wine,  
work of our hands, one cup that is  
shared by all; the Living Cup,  
the Living Bread of God.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE**

**(from Ps.89)**

**Lord God, we confess that though we belong to Christ, your anointed first-born, we have not lived as your children. We have forsaken your law and do not walk according to your instruction. We have broken your commandments and wander outside your path, inviting harm and destruction. How long, O LORD? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire? Remember how short are our mortal lives, and do not let your frail children be created for nothing!**

The Lord says, “My steadfast love I will keep for my Anointed forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens, and I will not remove from

him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness.

I will keep my covenant, my unchanging word I have spoken. His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun and the moon, established forever.

**Blessed be the LORD forever!**

**Amen and Amen.**

### **HWB #460 – “Sheaves of Summer”**

**Sheaves of summer**

**turned golden by the sun,  
grapes in bunches  
cut down when ripe and red,  
are converted  
into the bread and wine of God's love  
in the body and blood of our dear Lord.**

**We are sharing**

**the same communion meal,**

**We are wheat by  
the same great Sower sown,  
Like a millstone,  
life grinds us down with sorrow and pain,  
But God makes us new people  
bound by love.**

**Like the grains which  
become one same whole loaf,  
Like the notes that  
are woven into song,  
Like the droplets  
of water that are blended in the sea,  
We as Christians, one body shall become.**

**At God's table together we shall sit.  
As God's children,  
Christ's body we will share.  
One same hope  
we will sing together as we walk along.**

**Brothers, sisters, in life, in love we'll be.**

## **Scriptures**

### **Hosea 2:16-23 (CEB)**

16 On that day, says the LORD, you will call me, “My husband,” and no longer will you call me, “My Lord.” 17 I will take away the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they will not be mentioned by name anymore. 18 On that day, I will make a covenant for them with the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the creeping creatures of the fertile ground. I will do away with the bow, the sword, and war from the land; I will make you lie down in safety.

19 I will take you for my wife forever;

I will take you for my wife in righteousness  
and in justice,

in devoted love, and in mercy.

20 I will take you for my wife in faithfulness;  
and you will know the LORD.

21 On that day I will answer, says the LORD.

I will answer the heavens  
and they will answer the earth.

22 The earth will answer the corn,  
the new wine, and the fresh oil,  
and they will answer Jezreel;

23 I will sow him for myself in the land;

and I will have compassion  
on No Compassion,  
and I will say to Not My People,  
“You are my people”;  
and he will say, “You are my God.”

## **Isaiah 11:1-9 (CEB)**

1 A shoot will grow up from the stump of  
Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots.

2 The LORD’s spirit will rest upon him,  
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,

a spirit of planning and strength,  
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.  
3 He will delight in fearing the LORD.  
He won't judge by appearances,  
nor decide by hearsay.  
4 He will judge the needy  
with righteousness, and decide with equity  
for those who suffer in the land.  
He will strike the violent with the rod of his  
mouth; by the breath of his lips he will kill  
the wicked.  
5 Righteousness will be the belt around his  
hips, and faithfulness the belt around his  
waist.  
6 The wolf will live with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down  
with the young goat;  
the calf and the young lion will feed  
together,  
and a little child will lead them.  
7 The cow and the bear will graze.  
Their young will lie down together,

and a lion will eat straw like an ox.  
8 A nursing child will play over the snake's hole; toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.  
9 They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain.  
The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the LORD,  
just as the water covers the sea.

### **John 6:25-59**

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform



the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and

anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God."

Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who

eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.’ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

**Sermon – Laura Kelly**

**Congregational Response**

**Sharing Praises and Petitions**

**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.

## **THE COMMUNION 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, and for calling your people into obedient love through your law, prophets, and apostles,

**Blessed are you, O God, holy and mighty.**

For your Son Jesus Christ, our healer and redeemer; for his call to faith and peace; for his death and resurrection to bring forgiveness while we were your enemies killing him; for life in his Spirit, free from sin and death; for our communion with him in his Body, and the promise of his return in your full kingdom.

**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 service for 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 wedding banquet with all your saints. 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 the Bread and Cup**

## **HWB #477 For the Bread**

**1 For the bread which you have broken,  
for the wine which you have poured,  
for the words which you have spoken,  
now we give you thanks, O Lord.**

**2 By this promise that you love us,  
by your gift of peace restored,  
by your call to heaven above us,  
hallow all our lives, O Lord.**

**3 With the saints who now adore you  
seated at the heavenly board,  
may the church still waiting for you  
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.**

**4 In your service, Lord, defend us;  
in our hearts keep watch and ward;  
in the world to which you send us  
let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

## **Benediction**

By grace, Christ faithfully has sown his life in us in seeds of bread and drink, through faith. In faith, let us now sow his life in the world through our words and deeds, that we may be joined to him in joy in the harvest of peace in the new creation. Amen.