

Durham Mennonite Church

August 13, 2023



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship (from Psalm 105:1-8)

O give thanks to the LORD,
and call upon his name!

Make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to the LORD, sing praises to him;

tell of all God's wondrous works!

Glory in God's holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD
rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek God's presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works

that the LORD has done, his miracles,

and the judgments God has uttered,

O seed of Abraham, his servant,

children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

The LORD is our God;

his judgments are in all the earth.

The LORD remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded,

for a thousand generations,

Praise the Lord!

Hymn - VT#716

God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy pow'r;
crown thine ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3 Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;

let the search for thy salvation

be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage

serving thee whom we adore,

serving thee whom we adore.

Hymn - The Goodness of God

I love You, Lord

For Your mercy never fails me

All my days, I've been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up

Until I lay my head

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus:

And all my life You have been faithful

And all my life You have been so, so
good

With every breath that I am able

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse:

I love Your voice

You have led me through the fire

In the darkest night

You are close like no other

I've known You as a Father

I've known You as a Friend

And I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus:

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so
good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Bridge:

'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything

Bridge:

'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
'Cause Your goodness is running after

It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after
It keeps running after me

Verse (2x)

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

Prayer of Confession – VT #894

O Prince of Peace,
from peace that is no peace,
from the grip of all that is evil,
from a violent righteousness...

Deliver us!

From paralysis of will,
from lies and misnaming,
from terror of truth...

Deliver us!

From hardness of heart,
from trading in slaughter,
from the worship of death...

Deliver us!

(Silence)

By the folly of your gospel,
by your choosing our flesh,
by your nakedness and pain...

Heal us.

By your weeping over the city,
by your refusal of the sword,
by your facing of horror...

Heal us.

By your bursting from the tomb,
by your coming in judgment, by your
longing for peace...

Heal us.

Grant us peace. Amen.

Scripture – Hebrews 9:18-23,10:11-18

18 So not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment had been told to all the people by Moses in accordance with the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the scroll itself and all the people, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God has ordained for you.” 21 And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. 22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. 23 Thus it was

necessary for the sketches of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves need better sacrifices than these.

10:11 Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” 13 and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. 15 And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, 16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days,

says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” 17he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” 18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Scripture – 1 John 2:7-11

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him and in you, because the

darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says, “I am in the light,” while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.

Scripture - Genesis 37:2-36

This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers;

he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed. There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered

around it, and bowed down to my sheaf.” His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed

to have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words. He had another dream, and told it to his brothers, saying, “Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, “What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?” So his

brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them

say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the

pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt. When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes. He returned to his brothers, and said, "The boy is gone; and I, where can I turn?"

Then they took Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat, and dipped the robe in the blood. They had the long robe with sleeves taken to their father, and they said, "This we have found; see now whether it is your son's robe or not." He recognized it, and said, "It is my son's robe! A wild animal has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces." Then Jacob tore his garments, and put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for

his son many days. All his sons and all his daughters sought to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and said, “No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.” Thus his father bewailed him. Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard.

Sermon - “Blood Between Brothers”

Spencer Bradford

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#813

Heart with Loving Heart United

1 Heart with loving heart united,
met to know God's holy will.

Let his love in us ignited
more and more our spirits fill.

He the Head, we are his members;
we reflect the light he is.

He the Master, we disciples,
he is ours and we are his.

2 May we all so love each other
and all selfish claims deny,

so that each one for the other
will not hesitate to die.

Even so our Lord has loved us;
for our lives he gave his life.

Still he grieves and still he suffers,
for our selfishness and strife.

3 Since, O Lord, you have demanded
that our lives your love should show
so we wait to be commanded
forth into your world to go.

Kindle is us love's compassion
so that ev'ryone may see
in our fellowship the promise
of a new humanity.

Benediction - VT #822 (Romans 15:5-6)

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God of our Savior Jesus Christ.