

Durham Mennonite Church

July 30, 2023



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Lord of mustard seeds and yeast,
we come to you this day,
seeking your Word and will for us.

Make us people who care deeply about
the well-being of others.

Give us courage to be yeast for the rising
of hope and peace throughout the world.
Open our hearts to your redeeming love,
for we ask this in Christ's Name. AMEN.

Call to Worship

Waiting is never easy for us.

This morning, God is asking us to wait;
to be patient.

Help us to stop and focus on you, Lord.

Quiet your spirits and open your hearts
to God's word for you today.

**Lord, be with us. Help us to be ready to
hear and respond to your word.**

Let us praise your holy name!

AMEN.

Hymn - VT#91 We Praise Thee, O God

**1 We praise thee, O God,
for the Son of thy love,
for Jesus who died,
and is now gone above.**

**Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
hallelujah! Amen!**

**Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
revive us again.**

**2 We praise thee, O God,
for thy Spirit of light
who has shown us our Savior
and scattered our night.**

**Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
hallelujah! Amen!**

**Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
revive us again.**

**3 We praise thee, O God,
for the joy thou hast giv'n
to thy saints in communion,
these foretastes of heav'n.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
hallelujah! Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
revive us again.**

**4 Revive us again,
fill each heart with thy love.
May each soul be rekindled
with fire from above.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
hallelujah! Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
revive us again.**

HYMN - VT#50 – Spirit, Working in Creation

**1 Spirit, working in creation,
bringing order out of strife,
come among God's gathered people,
giving harmony and life.**

**2 Spirit, speaking through the prophets
so the voice of God was heard,
come, inspire, alert your people
to this day's prophetic word.**

**3 Spirit, breathed on the disciples,
giving peace where there was fear,
come among us, touch us, send us,
making Jesus' presence near.**

**4 Spirit, wind and flame empow'ring,
fearless witness to the lost:
Come unite, renew your wonders
give us your new Pentecost.**

Hymn - VT#638 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

**3 Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**4 Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.**

Prayer of Confession

Precious Lord,
who always watches over us,
be with us through all of these days.
We confess that at times we have allowed
a host of worries and frustrations
to crowd out your word
and the Holy Spirit's presence in our
lives.

As you give us peace and your transforming
love, also forgive all those times
when we have been less than faithful disciples.
Gently visit us again with your healing powers.

**Restore our hope and courage and joy
for all the times ahead.**

**We ask this in the name
of the Master Healer, Jesus Christ.**

Amen

Assurance of Grace

**While we were worrying and fretting,
God has been at work in our lives**

offering healing and peace.

**Receive these gifts in the name and love of the
Lord our God. AMEN.**

Hymn - VT #517

Children of the Heavenly Father

**1 Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather.**

**Nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.**

**2 God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.**

**From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.**

**3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever.
Unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

**4 Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh.
His the loving purpose solely
to preserve them safe and holy.**

Scripture - Psalm 128:1-6 (NRSV)

1 Happy is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways.

2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

4 Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

5 The LORD bless you from Zion.

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

6 May you see your children's children.

Peace be upon Israel!

Scripture - Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs

and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

The Parable of the Yeast

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

Three Parables

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them,

“Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Scripture – Romans 8:26-39 (NRSV)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those

whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God's Love in Christ Jesus

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress,

or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sermon – The Promise of Something More
Kevin Nice

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#297 You Are Salt for the Earth

**You Are Salt For The Earth, O People,
Salt For The Kingdom Of God!**

**Share The Flavor Of Life, O People:
Life In The Kingdom Of God!**

**Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Mercy,
Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Peace;
Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Justice,
Bring Forth The City Of God!**

**You Are A Light On The Hill, O People,
Light For The City Of God!**

**Shine So Holy And Bright, O People:
Shine For The Kingdom Of God!**

**Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Mercy,
Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Peace;**

**Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Justice,
Bring Forth The City Of God!**

**You Are A Seed Of The Word, O People,
Bring Forth The Kingdom Of God!
Seeds Of Mercy And Seeds Of Justice,
Grow In The Kingdom Of God!**

**Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Mercy,
Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Peace;
Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Justice,
Bring Forth The City Of God!**

**We Are A Blessed And A Pilgrim People,
Bound For The Kingdom Of God!
Love Our Journey And Love Our Homeland:
Love Is The Kingdom Of God!**

**Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Mercy,
Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Peace;
Bring Forth The Kingdom Of Justice,
Bring Forth The City Of God!**

Benediction

Lord, have mercy on us.

May we spend this week praising and meditating on you, knowing that you are with us even in the midst of our groaning.

May we also spend it well in your service.

Keep us mindful of the needs of our family, friends and others, that we will be your faithful disciples, for we ask these things in Jesus'

Name. AMEN.