

Durham Mennonite Church

September 3, 2023



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Good and gracious God, you have opened our eyes this morning to the light of your creation, for which we praise and thank you, and you have called us to renew our covenant of love with you through your good gifts of grain and vine. Open our hearts and minds to receive the light of your new creation, that we may walk by your Spirit in the way of the cross, the way of forgiving and giving away, in fellowship with Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Call to Worship (from Psalm 26)

O LORD, I love the habitation of your house
and the place where your glory dwells.

**Do not sweep my soul away with sinners,
nor my life with bloodthirsty people,**

in whose hands are evil devices, and whose
right hands are full of bribes.

**But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.**

My foot stands on level ground;

in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.

Hymn - VT#573

(Strong Peaceful Man of Galilee)

1 Strong, peaceful man of Galilee,
robed with your strength we long to be—
not to revenge; to heal and pray,
to turn the cheek, and tribute pay.
Robed with your strength we long to be,
strong, peaceful man of Galilee.

2 Strong, righteous man of Galilee,
dressed with your peace we long to be—
in temple court, your cleansing rod;
on greed and lies, the wrath of God.
Dressed with your peace we long to be,
strong, righteous man of Galilee.

3 Strong, suff'ring man of Galilee,
clad in your grace we hope to be—
love at the well, share Martha's loss,
forgive the nails, and take the cross.
Clad in your grace we hope to be,
strong, suff'ring man of Galilee.

4 God's peaceful man of Galilee,
Love's triumph, we at last will see—
to crumble ev'ry bound'ry wall,
build highways to the hearts of all.
Love's triumph, we at last will see,
God's peaceful man of Galilee.

Hymn - VT#566 (We Will Follow)

Zimbabwean traditional song

We will follow, we will follow Jesus.

We will follow, everywhere he goes.

We will follow, we will follow Jesus.

Everywhere he goes we will follow.

Hymn - VT#485

(Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands)

Put peace into each other's hands

and like a treasure hold it;

protect it like a candle flame,

with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands

with loving expectation;

be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands,
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.

Put Christ into each other's hands,
to share love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance
and share it like a treasure.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

We confess you are the Christ, O Lord, but how can we discern our errors?

Clear us from hidden faults, O God, from ambition for ourselves, careless indifference for others, and idolatry of success and security in this world.

Look graciously on our remorse, and lead us to return from evil, and to follow behind you again. We offer ourselves and our lives, to be cleansed and renewed.

As we drink from your cup, O Lord, assure us again of your forgiveness through the blood of Christ.

Accept our grateful pledge to follow you in serving and forgiving others, and grant your Spirit to fulfill it.

As we break your bread, O Lord, nourish us
again with strength to take up your cross as
our own, and follow you,
**to live and die as your body for your
kingdom. Amen.**

Scriptures - Psalm 26:1-7

1 Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without
wavering.

2 Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.

3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in your faithfulness.

4 I do not sit with deceitful people,
nor do I consort with hypocrites.

5 I hate the assembly of evildoers,
and I will not sit with the wicked.

6 I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O LORD,

7 proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

Romans 12:9-21

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-27

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You

are a stumbling-block to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on mortal things.”

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a person to gain the whole world if he forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

Sermon – Spencer Bradford

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

Hymn - VT#581

(Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song)

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go.

You alone are our life

and our peace and our love.

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.

May the earth and the sea

and the sky join my song.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

To carry your cross and

to share all your burdens and tears.

For you saved me by

giving your body and blood.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

Lord Jesus, stay with me wherever I journey.
I listen at night as the sound
of your steps lead the way.
Till your new day shall dawn
on the people you saved.
Lord Jesus, we'll sing your return on our
journey.

Benediction