

# **Durham Mennonite Church**

March 10, 2024



**Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church**

# **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Lord, as we gather here today, remind us that you have shared with us your most precious gift, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to model our lives after his messages of compassion and service to you and to all your world. In Christ's Name, we offer this prayer. AMEN.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather to share in our love of God.

**Lord, open our hearts  
and let us share your Good News.**

We gather to share our witness to God's goodness.

**Lord, let our lives bear witness through service to your people.**

We gather to praise God whose love is eternal.

**Lord, open our hearts today to sing your praises. AMEN.**

## **HYMN - VT #57 HOLY SPIRIT, COME WITH POWER**

Holy Spirit, come with power,  
breathe into our aching night.  
We expect you this glad hour,  
waiting for your strength and light.  
We are fearful, we are ailing,

we are weak and selfish too.  
Break upon your congregation,  
give us vigor, life anew.

Holy Spirit, come with fire,  
burn us with your presence new.  
Let us as one mighty choir  
sing our hymn of praise to you.  
Burn away our wasted sadness  
and enflame us with your love.  
Burst upon your congregation,  
give us gladness from above.

Holy Spirit, bring your message,  
burn and breathe each word anew  
deep into our tired living  
till we strive your work to do.  
Teach us love and trusting kindness,  
lend our hands to those who hurt.

Breathe upon your congregation  
and inspire us with your word.

**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.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

God of mercy and patience,  
Remind us again that our lives  
are meant to be gifts to others,  
for healing, hope, comfort, peace and love.  
Forgive us when we get so caught up  
in the details of living  
that we neglect to help others in  
need.

Enlighten us again with your spirit  
and your words of healing love.

Caring and sharing are the hallmarks of  
discipleship with Jesus Christ. Heal and  
forgive us.

Give us hearts for joyful caring and sharing;  
for it is in Jesus' name, we offer this prayer.

AMEN.



## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Let God's love and mercy wash over you as the spring rains wash over the earth, bringing promise of new life and hope. Be at peace.

AMEN.

## **HYMN - VT#163 AMAZING GRACE**

1 Amazing grace - how sweet the sound -  
That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found  
Was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

3 Thru many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

4 When we've been there  
ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

## **SCRIPTURE - LEVITICUS 24:1-4 (NRSV)**

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil of beaten olives for the lamp, that a light may be kept burning regularly. <sup>3</sup> Aaron shall set it up in the tent of meeting, outside the curtain of the covenant, to burn from evening to morning before the LORD regularly; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations. <sup>4</sup> He shall set up the lamps on the lampstand of pure gold before the LORD regularly.

## **SCRIPTURE - MATTHEW 3:1-11 (NRSV)**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is

the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’;

for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

## **SCRIPTURE - 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-9 (NIV)**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 9 He has saved us and

called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.

**SERMON - “FAN THE FLAME” KEVIN NICE**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**SHARING PRAISES AND PRAYER CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

## **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.

## **SONG - THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE**

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine



Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it  
shine,

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it  
shine

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it  
shine

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it  
shine

Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it  
shine

Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it  
shine

Let it shine let it shine let it shine shine shine

## **SENDING**

God, your great love and rich mercy  
have made us alive in Christ.

Give us faith to go out with courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us,  
and your love supporting us,  
through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.