

Durham Mennonite Church

April 7, 2024



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of Resurrection surprises, open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus Christ. Erase our excuses for unbelief, and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. Give us courage and challenge us to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus goes before us, leading and guiding our steps. In his name, we pray. AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: This is the good news which we proclaim to you.

P: Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!

L: Walk in the light of his love.

P: Live in the light of his teachings and healing mercies.

L: Come, let us worship the One Who overcame death.

P: Let us celebrate the triumph of our Lord.

AMEN

Hymn - #651 I Owe the Lord a Morning Song

**1 I owe the Lord a morning song
of gratitude and praise,
for the kind mercy he has shown
in length'ning out my days.**

**2 He kept me safe another night;
I see another day.
Now may his Spirit, as the light,
direct me in his way.**

**3 Keep me from danger and from sin,
help me thy will to do,
so that my heart be pure within,
and I thy goodness know.**

**4 Keep me til thou will call me hence,
where never night can be,
and save me, Lord, for Jesus' sake;
he shed his blood for me.**

Hymn - HWB #266 They Crucified My Savior

1 They crucified my Savior

And nailed him to the cross.

They crucified my Savior

And nailed him to the cross.

They crucified my Savior

And nailed him to the cross.

And the Lord will bear my spirit home.

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

2 Joseph begged his body

And laid it in the tomb.

Joseph begged his body

And laid it in the tomb.

Joseph begged his body

And laid it in the tomb.

And the Lord will bear my spirit home.

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

3 Mary, she came running,

A-looking for my Lord.

Mary, she came running,

A-looking for my Lord.

Mary, she came running,

A-looking for my Lord.

And the Lord will bear my spirit home.

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

4 An angel came from heaven

And rolled the stone away.

An angel came from heaven

And rolled the stone away.

An angel came from heaven

And rolled the stone away.

And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

He arose (he arose) he arose (he arose)

He arose from the dead,

And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

Hymn - HWB #275 Lift Your Glad Voices

Lift your glad voice in triumph on high,

For Jesus has risen and we shall not die.

**Vain were the terrors that gathered
around him,**

**And short the dominion of death and the
grave**

**He burst from the fetters of evil that
bound him**

resplendent in glory, to live and to save.

Loud was the chorus of angels on high,

The Savior has risen, and we shall not die.

Glory to God, in full anthems of joy;

**The being God gave us, death cannot
destroy.**

**Sad were the life we may part with
tomorrow,**

**If tears were our birthright and death were
our end.**

**But Jesus has cheered the deep valley of
sorrow,**

And bade us, immortal, to heaven ascend.

Lift then your voices in triumph on high,

For Jesus has risen, and we shall not die.

Confession of Sin (John 20)

Must we see you in order to believe you, Lord?

Is seeing truly believing?

Are we to be prisoners of our senses,
distrusting and rejecting
whatever we cannot see, touch, or hear?

Yet you are faithful—

you give sight to the blind,

you carry us when we are weary,

you call us to your side.

The locked room of our hearts

opens at the turn of your key.

Speak your words of life to us again:

“Do not doubt, only believe.”

Speak your words of life,

that we might live.

Assurance of Grace

The peace of God be with you.

Receive God’s forgiveness

and the promise of the Spirit,
for Jesus is risen from the dead.
Seen or unseen, he is present in our midst,
and we see the presence of Christ
reflected in each other's faces.
Happy are those who have not seen,
yet have come to believe.

Hymn - #528 I Stand Amazed in the Presence

I stand amazed in the presence

Of Jesus the Nazarene,

And wonder how He could love me,

A sinner condemned, unclean.

How marvelous! How wonderful!

And my song shall ever be:

How marvelous! How wonderful!

Is my Savior's love for me!

For me it was in the garden,

He prayed: "Not my will, but Thine."

**He had no tears for His own griefs,
But sweat-drops of blood for mine.**

How marvelous! How wonderful!

And my song shall ever be:

How marvelous! How wonderful!

Is my Savior's love for me!

He took my sins and my sorrows,

He made them His very own;

He bore the burden to Calv'ry,

And suffered, and died alone.

How marvelous! How wonderful!

And my song shall ever be:

How marvelous! How wonderful!

Is my Savior's love for me!

When with the ransomed in glory

His face I at last shall see,

'Twill be my joy through the ages

To sing of His love for me.

How marvelous! How wonderful!

And my song shall ever be:

How marvelous! How wonderful!

Is my Savior's love for me!

Scriptures - Psalm 133

**1 How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!**

**2 It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.**

**3 It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.**

**For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.**

Scriptures - Acts 4:32-35

The Believers Share Their Possessions

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Scriptures - John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' **²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.**

²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' **²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'**

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' **²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'** **²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'** **²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'**

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon – “Encountering the Body of Christ”

Laura Kelly

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.**

Communion

At the table of Christ, we eat this bread and drink this cup to remember the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, to be united with Christ and with one another as the church, and to look toward a time when all will be one. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, Jesus Christ is present with us and we are empowered by the Spirit to follow Jesus' way of love as the body of Christ, broken and blessed for the life of the world.

As John baptized Jesus in the Jordan, the Holy Spirit baptized the body of Christ. God now gathers us at this table as the body of Christ to hear the voice of heaven, spoken over the waters of baptism, saying, "You are my beloved."

**Water, bread, and wine,
The gifts of the earth,**

**The gifts of the church,
Reveal that we belong
With God and one another.**

In wonder, we remember the life Jesus lived,
laid down, and took up again for us.

**Send your Spirit upon us, O God, so that the
bread we break and the cup we share may be
the communion of the body of Christ. Send
your Spirit upon us, so that we can live,
conformed to Christ. Amen.**

Gathering Together

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat of my body, broken for you. Partake of it together, and so remember me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people. Drink it together, and so remember me.”

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Let us pray together.

**Blessed are you, Eternal God,
Through this Holy meal
You have joined us to yourself
And to one another.**

**Blessed are you, Incarnate God;
You have put your life into our hands;
Now we put our lives into yours.**

Blessed are you, Breath of God;

**As we go forth, set us free
To follow where you lead. Amen.**

Hymn - #307 Will You Let Me be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you

in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony

6 Will you let me be your servant,

let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my servant, too.

SENDING

Lord of mercy, be with us as we go from this place today. Fill our lives with your love.

Help us to bring the good news of hope and peace wherever we go. Let us truly be people of the Resurrection - the Easter people! AMEN.