

# **Durham Mennonite Church**

June 16, 2024



**Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty and most gracious God,  
we give you thanks for this day  
and for calling us here  
to your place of worship.

We gather to praise your name,  
for your faithfulness endures  
from generation to generation.

Signs of your faithfulness are all around us:  
love, mercy, forgiveness, new life,  
and the gifts of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit.

Help us claim your faithfulness  
as we seek to increase our faithfulness to  
you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 105)**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

**We proclaim here and now  
the marvelous works of our God!**

Let our hearts leap for joy, O people of God.

**We proclaim here and now  
the marvelous faithfulness of our God!**

God's ways are not our ways.

God's works are too wonderful to behold.

**We proclaim here and now  
the marvelous works of our God  
all the days of our lives!**

## **HYMN - COME WE THAT LOVE THE LORD (HWB #14)**

1. Come, we that love the Lord,  
and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord,  
join in a song with sweet accord,  
and thus surround the throne,  
and thus surround the throne.  
We're marching to Zion  
beautiful beautiful Zion  
We're marching upward to Zion  
the beautiful city of God.

2. Let those refuse to sing  
who never knew our God;  
but children of the heavenly King  
but children of the heavenly King  
may speak their joys abroad.

may speak their joys abroad.  
We're marching to Zion  
beautiful beautiful Zion  
We're marching upward to Zion  
the beautiful city of God.

3. The hill of Zion yields  
a thousand sacred sweets  
before we reach the heavenly fields,  
before we reach the heavenly fields,  
or walk the golden streets.  
or walk the golden streets.  
We're marching to Zion  
beautiful beautiful Zion  
We're marching upward to Zion  
the beautiful city of God.

4. Then let our songs abound,  
and every tear be dry;  
we're marching through Emmanuel's  
ground,  
we're marching through Emmanuel's  
ground,  
to fairer worlds on high.  
to fairer worlds on high.  
We're marching to Zion  
beautiful beautiful Zion  
We're marching upward to Zion  
the beautiful city of God.

## **HYMN - GOD IS HERE AMONG US (HWB #16)**

God is here among us; let us all adore him,  
And with awe appear before him.

God is here within us; soul, in silence fear  
him,

Humbly, fervently draw near him,

Now his own, who have known

God in worship lowly, yield their spirits  
wholly.

Come, abide within me; let my soul, like  
Mary,

be thine earthly sanctuary.

Come, indwelling Spirit,

with transfigured splendor;

love and honor will I render.

Where I go here below, let me bow before  
thee,

know thee, and adore thee.

Gladly we surrender earth's deceitful  
treasures,  
pride of life, and sinful pleasures.  
Gladly, Lord, we offer thine to be forever,  
soul and life and each endeavor.  
Thou alone shalt be known  
Lord of all our being,  
life's true way decreeing.



## **CONFESSION OF SIN (Read in Unison)**

Maker and giver of all,

forgive us when we are too preoccupied

to notice your presence in our lives:

when we walk through this world

and fail to see the wonder

of you upholding our lives and all creation;

when we walk through our lives

and fail to see you abiding with,

within, and around us;

when we walk through holy moments

and fail to savor your presence,

instead feeling abandoned

in the vast sweep of life

as each day rushes at us with its demands.

Open our eyes to your presence, God of  
love,

that we may lean on you—

for you uphold all of creation

in tenderness and power. Amen.

## **HYMN - GOD OF OUR STRENGTH HWB #36**

1. God of our strength, enthroned above,  
the source of life, the fount of love,  
O let devotion's sacred flame  
our souls awake to praise thy name.  
God of our strength, we wait on thee,  
our sure defense forever be.

2. To thee we lift our joyful eyes,  
to thee on wings of faith we rise.  
Come thou, and let thy courts on earth  
ring out thy praise in days of mirth.  
God of our strength, we wait on thee,  
our sure defense forever be.

3. God of our strength, from day to day  
direct our thoughts and guide our way.  
Oh, may our hearts united be  
in sweet communion, God, with thee.

God of our strength, we wait on thee,  
our sure defense forever be.

4. God of our strength, on thee we call.  
God of our hope, our light, our all,  
thy name we praise, thy love adore,  
our rock, our shield, forevermore.  
God of our strength, we wait on thee,  
our sure defense forever be.

## **SCRIPTURE - JUDGES 21:16-25**

<sup>16</sup> So the elders of the congregation said, “What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since there are no women left in Benjamin?” <sup>17</sup> And they said, “There must be heirs for the survivors of Benjamin, in order that a tribe may not be blotted out from Israel. <sup>18</sup> Yet we cannot give any of our daughters to them as wives.” For the Israelites had sworn, “Cursed be anyone who gives a wife to Benjamin.” <sup>19</sup> So they said, “Look, the yearly festival of the Lord is taking place at Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.” <sup>20</sup> And they instructed the Benjaminites, saying, “Go and lie in wait in

the vineyards, <sup>21</sup> and watch; when the young women of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then come out of the vineyards and each of you carry off a wife for himself from the young women of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin. <sup>22</sup>

Then if their fathers or their brothers come to complain to us, we will say to them, 'Be generous and allow us to have them; because we did not capture in battle a wife for each man. But neither did you incur guilt by giving your daughters to them.' " <sup>23</sup> The Benjaminites did so; they took wives for each of them from the dancers whom they abducted. Then they went and returned to their territory, and rebuilt the towns, and lived in them. <sup>24</sup> So the Israelites departed

from there at that time by tribes and families, and they went out from there to their own territories.

<sup>25</sup> In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.

## **SCRIPTURE - RUTH 1:6-18**

### **Naomi and Her Moabite Daughters-in-Law**

6 Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. 7 So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. 8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they



wept aloud. 10 They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” 11 But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, 13 would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” 14 Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. 15 So she

said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” 16 But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” 18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

**SERMON - JONATHAN ROBIE**

# **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.

## **HYMN - HWB #430 GOD BE WITH YOU**

God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
may the Shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;  
unseen wings, protecting, hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,

put unfailing arms around you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;  
keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
smite death's threat'ning wave before you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

## **SENDING**

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
remain with you always. Amen.