

Durham Mennonite Church

September 8, 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 125:1-5 NKJV)

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,

Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

Glorious things of thee are spoken,

Zion city of our God.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.

Glorious things of thee are spoken,

Zion city of our God.

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
On the land allotted to the righteous, lest the
righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.

**Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion city of our God.**

Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
And to those who are upright in their hearts.

**Glorious things of thee are spoken
Zion city of our God.**

As for such as turn aside to their crooked
ways,

The LORD shall lead them away with the
workers

of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel!

**Glorious things of thee are spoken
Zion city of our God.**

Peace unto you, O Zion!

HYMN - STJ # 1

Praise The One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;

praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.

Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children

with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.

Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.

Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.

Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

HYMN - VT # 435 Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

HYMN - VT #540 WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW

1 Will you come and follow me if I but call
your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never
be the same?

Will you let my love be shown?

Will you let my Name be known?

Will you let my life be grown in you and you
in me?

2 Will you leave your self behind if I but call
your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be
the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life
attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you
in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see if I but call your
name?

Will you set the prisoner free and never be
the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as
this unseen?

And admit to what I mean in you and you in
me?

4 Will you love the 'You' you hide if I but call
your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be
the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to
reshape the world around

through my sight and touch and sound in you
and you in me?

5 Christ, your summons echoes true when
you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the
same.

In your company I'll go where your love and
footsteps show,
thus I'll move and live and grow in you and
you in me?

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, source of all life,
Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer,
We come before you in need of healing:

The healing of our bodies and souls,
The healing of our bodies and souls,
The healing of our relationships,
The healing of our pride and fear and
apathy.

We know that with you, nothing is
impossible,
not even our healing.

Not even the restoration of the whole
world.

We pray that you would heal us,
that you will heal the world,
So that we may be freed to serve and love
and dream and be, as Christ calls us.

Amen

HYMN - VT #644 Healer of our every ill

Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

**You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.**

[Refrain]

Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

**In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
Give us all your vision, God of love..**

[Refrain]

Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

**Give us strength to love each other.
Every sister, every brother.
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.**

Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

**You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.
(Refrain)**

Healer of our every ill,

light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

SCRIPTURE - James 2:1-10; 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love

him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

SCRIPTURE - Mark 7:24-37

The Syrophoenician Woman's Faith

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then

he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He

took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears,

and he spat and touched his tongue. Then

looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”

And immediately his ears were opened, his

tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

SERMON - JONATHAN LARSON

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 - VT ##832 The Lord Lift You Up

The Lord lift you up,
the Lord take your hand,
the Lord lead you forth,
and cause you to stand,
secure in God's word, seeking God's face,
abounding in love, abiding in grace.

SENDING