

# **Durham Mennonite Church**

December 15, 2024



**Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church**

## **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**December 22, 2024 - Lessons and Carols  
and Christmas Fellowship Meal following  
worship**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Lord, we have come to this place from a  
world of demands and schedules. We have  
sought hope and peace and have found  
them here. Now we seek the inner joy that  
only your presence can bring to our lives.  
Open our hearts and our spirits to your  
love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name.  
AMEN.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

In the times of darkness and fear, God is ever near to love and guide us.

**Come, Loving God, fill our hearts.**

In the times of joy and dancing, God is ever near in celebration.

**Come, Loving God, fill our hearts.**

At all times and in all places, God is always with us, sustaining, healing, loving.

**Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with Joy.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**Today we light three Advent candles.**

**The first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.**

**The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.**

**The third Candle is called JOY, because of God's absolute presence in our lives.**

**Come, all is ready. Let the light of this these candles, called HOPE, PEACE, and JOY, bring comfort and brightness to your spirits.**

## **HYMN - VT# 239 He Came Down**

He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love,  
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace;  
He came down that we may have peace;  
He came down that we may have peace,  
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy;  
He came down that we may have joy;  
He came down that we may have joy,  
Hallelujah forevermore.

## **HYMN - HWB #202 The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy**

**The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,**

**The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,**

**The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,**

**And they say that His name was Jesus.**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer!**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**The angels sang when the baby born,**

**The angels sang when the baby born,**

**The angels sang when the baby born,**

**And proclaimed Him the Saviour Jesus.**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer!**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**The Wise Men saw where the baby born,**

**The Wise Men saw where the baby born,**

**The Wise Men saw where the baby born,**

**And they say that His name was Jesus.**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**



**Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer!**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things of this season.

**Our lives are caught up in the planning; get togethers, gifts, traveling and other such things.**

We can get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, falling into restless sleep.

**The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need.**

Too often we turn a deaf ear

because we feel we just can't meet all the needs

that are presented to us.

**Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord.**

Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives.

**You have brought hope and peace to us.**

Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done.

**Teach us to use our gifts to encourage others and build up your kingdom, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray.**

**AMEN.**

## **Words of Assurance**

**The messenger has been sent to us,  
proclaiming that there is One who is  
Coming who will heal and lead you. He will  
bring you hope, peace and great joy. Know  
that this is a gift from God, who has always  
and will always love you. AMEN.**

## **HYMN - HWB #209 Oh, How Joyfully**

**Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how hopefully,  
waits the world on Christmas Eve!  
Love comes healing, God revealing  
Friends, be joyful and believe!**

**Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how peacefully,  
sleeps the world on Christmas Night!  
Sins are covered, grace discovered,  
In our darkness shines the light!**

**Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how thankfully,  
wakes the world on Christmas Morn!  
God has spoken, death is broken,  
Alleluia! Christ is born!**

## **SCRIPTURE - ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20**

### ***A Song of Joy***

**<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;**

**shout, O Israel!**

**Rejoice and exult with all your heart,**

**O daughter Jerusalem!**

**<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the  
judgements**

**against you, he has turned away your  
enemies.**

**The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your  
midst;**

**you shall fear disaster no more.**

**<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:**

**Do not fear, O Zion;**

**do not let your hands grow weak.**

**<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,**

**a warrior who gives victory;**

**he will rejoice over you with gladness,**

**he will renew you in his love;**

**he will exult over you with loud singing**

**<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.**

**I will remove disaster from you,**

**so that you will not bear reproach for it.**

**<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.**

**And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.**

**<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,**

**when I restore your fortunes**

**before your eyes, says the LORD.**



## **SCRIPTURE - ISAIAH 12:2-6**

**2 Surely God is my salvation;**

**I will trust, and will not be afraid,**

**for the Lord God is my strength and my  
might;**

**he has become my salvation.**

**3 With joy you will draw water**

**from the wells of salvation.**

**4 And you will say in that day:**

**Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;**

**make known his deeds among the nations;**

**proclaim that his name is exalted.**

**5 Sing praises to the Lord,**

**for he has done gloriously;**

**let this be known in all the earth.**

**6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal  
Zion,**

**for great in your midst is the Holy One of  
Israel.**

## **SCRIPTURE - PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7**

**4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

## **SCRIPTURE - LUKE 3:7-18**

**7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin 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. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”**

**10 And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” 11 In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13 He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”**

**15 As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”**

**18 So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.**

**VIDEO -**

**Advent—Rejoice! The One Who Comes is  
Our Salvation**

**SERMON - KEVIN NICE**

**“GOOD NEWS STARTS With REPENTANCE”**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**SHARING PRAISES AND PRAYER CONCERNS**

# **PRAYERS FOR 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 - He Has Made Me Glad**

**I will enter His gates**

**with thanksgiving in my heart**

**I will enter His courts with praise**

**I will say this is the day that the Lord has  
made**

**I will rejoice, for He has made me glad**

**He has made me glad, He has made me  
glad**

**I will rejoice, for He has made me glad**

**He has made me glad, He has made me  
glad**

**I will rejoice, for He has made me glad!**

**SENDING**