

Durham Mennonite Church

January 5, 2025



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP - JOSHUA 1:5,7-9

No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your

mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

HYMN - VT#540

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

**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.**

HYMN - VT#596 DON'T BE AFRAID

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger.
My love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger
And I have promised,
promised to be always near.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

By dying on the cross for us, Christ has perfected us for all time. Let us approach this time of confession with true hearts, in full assurance that Christ's mercy is strong enough to bear all of our burdens.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God,
look upon us, your servants gathered here,
with grace and compassion.

Hear our every need.

Speak to our fearful hearts,
that we may pour out our confessions
and admit our wrongdoings.

(Silent prayer)

**Loving God,
you have heard our anxieties,
our vexations, our worries,
our hopes, our dreams.
Breathe in us the spirit of forgiveness,
that we may receive your grace,
and may walk in freedom and glorious
hope. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**There is no wrong
that God cannot make right.**

**There is no chasm
that can separate us
from God's love.**

**The Lord is patient and kind,
generous and good.**

God will not forsake you or leave you.

**Turn to the Lord with confidence
and put your faith in God's great mercy.**

**By the power of Jesus Christ,
we are made whole. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE - Daniel 6 (NRSV)

**It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred
twenty satraps, stationed throughout the whole**

kingdom, ² and over them three presidents, including Daniel; to these the satraps gave account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³ Soon Daniel distinguished himself above all the other presidents and satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ So the presidents and the satraps tried to find grounds for complaint against Daniel in connection with the kingdom. But they could find no grounds for complaint or any corruption, because he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption could be found in him. ⁵ The men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”

⁶ So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! ⁷ All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.” ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.

Daniel in the Lions' Den

¹⁰ Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. ¹¹ The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. ¹² Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, “O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?” The king answered, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” ¹³ Then they responded to the king, “Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.”

¹⁴ When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. ¹⁵ Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.”

¹⁶ Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said

to Daniel, “May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!” ¹⁷ A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

Daniel Saved from the Lions

¹⁹ Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. ²⁰ When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?” ²¹ Daniel then said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.” ²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴ The king gave a command, and those who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den

the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: “May you have abundant prosperity! ²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel:

**For he is the living God,
enduring forever.**

**His kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and his dominion has no end.**

**²⁷ He delivers and rescues,
he works signs and wonders in heaven and on
earth;
for he has saved Daniel
from the power of the lions.”**

**²⁸ So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius
and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.**

MESSAGE - MARCIA NICE

“Dare to be a Daniel”

HYMN - VT #496

I OWE THE LORD A MORNING SONG

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

**2 God kept me safe another night;
I see another day.
Now Holy Spirit, as the light,
direct me in your way.**

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

**4 Keep me until you call me hence,
where never night can be,
and save me, God, for Jesus' sake;**

he shed his blood for me.

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 PRAYER

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.

**GATHER TOGETHER FOR COMMUNION
VT#461 - COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE**

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

**This is God's table;
it's not yours or mine.**

Come to the table of grace.

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.

SONG OF PRAISE - GOD IS SO GOOD
(Return to your seats)

God is so good. God is so good.
God is so good. He’s so good to me!

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 - VT #566

SOMLANDELA (WE WILL FOLLOW)

**We will follow, we will follow Jesus.
We will follow, ev'rywhere he goes.
We will follow, we will follow Jesus.
Ev'rywhere he goes we will follow.**

SENDING - VT #1068

**Eternal God,
You call us to ventures
Of which we cannot see the ending,**

**By paths as yet untrodden,
Through perils unknown.
Give us faith like Daniel
to go out with courage,
Not knowing where we go,
But only that your hand is leading us,
And your love supporting us,
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.**