

Durham Mennonite Church

September 29, 2024



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, our God, we gather together today to give you thanks and praise your greatness. We praise your mighty works to the whole world. We praise you for your wonderful deeds. Your power is limitless, your wisdom is unparalleled, your grace is overwhelming, your love is never failing. You promised that you will never leave or forsake us. Let us worship you now in spirit and truth. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP - (Psalm 57:9-11)

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to you among the nations.

For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;

your faithfulness extends to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.

Let your glory be over all the earth.

HYMN - HWB #17 We Gather Together

**1 We gather together to ask the Lord's
blessing;**

**He chastens and hastens His will to make
known;**

the wicked oppressing

now cease from distressing.

**Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His
own.**

**2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us
joining,**

ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;

**so from the beginning the fight we were
winning:**

the Lord was at our side- the glory be Thine!

**3 We all do extol Thee, Thou leader
triumphant,**

and pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.

Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;

**Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us
free!**

HYMN - HWB #100 Praise Him, Praise Him

1 Praise him, praise him!

Jesus, our blessed redeemer!

Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim!

Hail him, hail him! Highest archangels in glory!

Strength and honor give to his holy name!

**Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his
children.**

In his arms he carries them all day long.

Praise him! Praise him!

tell of his excellent greatness.

Praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song.

2 Praise him, praise him!

Jesus, our blessed redeemer!

For our sins, he suffered, and bled, and died.

He our rock, our hope of eternal salvation,

hail him, hail him! Jesus, the crucified.

**Sound his praises, Jesus who bore our
sorrows,**

love unbounded, wonderful, deep, and strong.
Praise him! Praise him!
tell of his excellent greatness.
Praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song.

3 Praise him, praise him!
Jesus, our blessed redeemer!
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever!
Crown him, crown him!
prophet, and priest, and king!
Christ is coming, over the world victorious.
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong.
Praise him! Praise him!
tell of his excellent greatness.
Praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song.

HYMN - HWB #46

I Sing The Mighty Power of God

**I sing the mighty pow'r of God,
that made the mountains rise,**

**That spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;**

**The moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food,**

**God formed the creatures through a word,
and then pronounced them good.**

**Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,**

**If I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky.**

**There's not a plant or flow'r below,
but makes Thy glories known,**

**And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from Thy throne;**

**While all that borrows life from Thee
is ever in Thy care;**

**There's not a place where we can flee
but God, is present there.**

Congregational Prayer - VT #998

**Everlasting God,
in whom we live and move
and have our being:
You have made us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless
until they rest in you.
Give us purity of heart
and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us
from knowing your will,
no weakness keep us from doing it,
that in your light we may see clearly
and in your service find perfect freedom,**

**through Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit.
One God, now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN - HWB #99 We Praise Thee, O God

**1 We praise thee, O God,
for the Son of thy love,
for Jesus who died,
and is now gone above.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
hallelujah! Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
revive us again.**

**2 We praise thee, O God,
for thy Spirit of light
who has shown us our Savior
and scattered our night.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
hallelujah! Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
revive us again.**

**3 We praise thee, O God,
for the joy thou hast giv'n
to thy saints in communion,
these foretastes of heav'n.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
hallelujah! Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
revive us again.**

**4 Revive us again,
fill each heart with thy love.
May each soul be rekindled
with fire from above.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
hallelujah! Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
revive us again.**

SCRIPTURE - Isaiah 40

**1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your
God.**

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the

LORD,

make straight in the desert a highway for our

God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

6 A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;^a

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

12 Who has measured the waters

in the hollow of his hand

and marked off the heavens with a span,

enclosed the dust of the earth in a

measure,

and weighed the mountains in scales

and the hills in a balance?

**13 Who has directed the spirit of the LORD,
or as his counselor has instructed him?**

**14 Whom did he consult for his
enlightenment,
and who taught him the path of justice?**

**Who taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of
understanding?**

**15 Even the nations are like a drop from a
bucket,**

and are accounted as dust on the scales;

see, he takes up the isles like fine dust.

16 Lebanon would not provide fuel enough,

nor are its animals enough for a burnt

offering.

17 All the nations are as nothing before him;

they are accounted by him as less than

nothing

and emptiness.

**18 To whom then will you liken God,
or what likeness compare with him?**

**19 An idol? —A workman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold,
and casts for it silver chains.**

**20 As a gift one chooses mulberry wood
—wood that will not rot—
then seeks out a skilled artisan
to set up an image that will not topple.**

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

**Has it not been told you from the
beginning?**

**Have you not understood from the
foundations of the earth?**

**22 It is he who sits above the circle of the
earth,**

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

**who stretches out the heavens like a
curtain,**

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

23 who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as

nothing.

24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the

earth,

when he blows upon them, and they

wither,

**and the tempest carries them off like
stubble.**

**25 To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.**

26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

**He who brings out their host and numbers
them,**

calling them all by name;

**because he is great in strength,
mighty in power, not one is missing.**

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God”?

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.

30 Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;

31 but those who wait for the LORD

shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

SCRIPTURE - I Corinthians 1

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that

you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 10 Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12 What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to

Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” 13 Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. 18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are

**being saved it is the power of God. 19 For
it is written,**

**“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will
thwart.”**

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, 29 so that no one might boast in the presence of God. 30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

SCRIPTURE -II Samuel 23:20-23

20 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was a valiant warrior from Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds; he struck down two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen. 21 And he killed an Egyptian, a handsome man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but Benaiah went against him with a staff, snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear. 22 Such were the things Benaiah son of Jehoiada did, and won a name beside the three warriors. 23 He was renowned among the Thirty, but he did not attain to the Three. And David put him in charge of his bodyguard.

SERMON - KEVIN NICE

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 - HWB #283

Christ Who Left His Home In Glory

**Christ who left His home in glo-ry,
And up-on the cross was slain,
Now is ris'n! Oh, tell the sto-ry,
That the Sav-ior lives again.**

**Hail Him! Hail Him!
Tell the sto-ry!
Hail! all hail!**

Jesus lives for-ev-er-more.

**While the world in peace was sleep-ing,
Early on that East-er day,
Came the faith-ful women weep-ing,
But the stone was rolled away.**

**Hail Him! Hail Him!
Tell the sto-ry!
Hail! all hail!
Jesus lives for-ev-er-more.**

**Christ, our lov-ing me-di-at-or,
Now with God for you and me
Intercedes, and our cre-at-or
Hears and an-sw-ers ev-ery plea.**

**Hail Him! Hail Him!
Tell the sto-ry!
Hail! all hail!
Jesus lives for-ev-er-more.**

SENDING

**May the beauty of God
be reflected in your eyes,
the love of God
be reflected in your hands,
the wisdom of God
be reflected in your words,
and the knowledge of God
flow from your heart this week,
that all might see,
and in seeing, believe. Amen.**