

Durham Mennonite Church

November 3, 2024



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

Welcome And Announcements

Opening Prayer

Lord, we come humbly and gratefully to worship today. A place where we worship what cannot be seen, choose to participate in a living mystery, and try with all the Spirit's help to allow transformation of our lives, our church and our world. This is a place where we try, with all of the Spirit's grace, to risk letting go of familiar ways in order to believe, receive, and love anew. Come, Holy Spirit, come and renew a right spirit within us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Call To Worship

Break open our hearts this morning
to hear your word, O God.

Let our fears be vanquished,
our spirits restored!

Come and let us worship with great joy!

Let us drop the things of the past
which weighed us down!

**God wants to do something new in our
lives! Amen.**

Hymn - VT#10 Here in This Place

**Here in this place, the new light is
streaming, now are the shadows vanished
away.**

**See, in this space, our fears and our
dreamings, brought here to you in the light
of this day.**

**Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,
gather us in - our spirits inflame.**

**Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
we are the old - who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of
history, called to be light to the whole
human race.**

**Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,
gather us in - the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take the wine of compassion,
Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here we become the people you fashion,
children of God, to be salt for the earth.**

**Give us to drink the wine ever flowing,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and guide us in growing
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not just in buildings, dim and confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
here in this place, the new light is shining;
now is the dawning and now is the day.**

**Gather us in - and hold us forever,
gather us in - and make us your own.
Gather us in - all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Hymn - VT #715, Longing for Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

Making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Hymn - Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full in his wonderful face

And the things of earth

will grow strangely dim

In the light of his glory and grace

Confession of Sin

Loving Lord,

**Forgive those things we have done
which have caused you sadness,
and those things we should have done
that would have brought you joy.**

**In both we have failed ourselves, and
you.**

**Bring us back to that place
where our journey began,
when we said that we would follow
the way that you first trod.**

Lead us to the Cross and meet us there.

In your name we pray, amen.

Assurance of Grace

Steadfast love surrounds those
who put their trust in God,
for God forgives the guilt of their sin.
Happy are those whose transgression is
forgiven! Be glad in the Lord!

1 John 3:1-3 (NRSV)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him,

for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and

languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you

are the one who knows.” Then he said to me,
“These are they who have come out of the
great ordeal; they have washed their robes and
made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of
God

and worship him day and night within his
temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will
shelter them.

They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat,

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be
their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water
of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their
eyes.”

Sermon: How Great a Cloud of Witnesses

Communion Liturgy

Leader: Friends, as we gather to share in this sacred meal, we stand in awe of the mystery and grace before us. When we bless the cup, we are sharing in the blood of Christ. And when we break the bread, we are sharing in the body of Christ. Whether Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female - we are one body, because we all share in this one bread.

Congregation: Yes, we are one body, united in Christ.

Leader: Let us pray together as we prepare our hearts:

Lord our God, we thank you for allowing us to partake of your holy, pure, immortal, and heavenly mysteries. Make this bread the precious Body of Christ, and this cup the precious Blood of Christ, transforming them by your Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Lord, we give you glory, along with your eternal Father and your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Leader: Let us now partake of the bread and the cup, in reverence and gratitude for the love that Christ has shown us, proclaiming His death, and celebrating His life among us.

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes again.

Congregation: We remember your sacrifice, Lord Jesus. We proclaim your death, and we await your return.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you offered yourself on the cross as the perfect sacrifice, and you offer yourself to us now in this holy meal. We worship you and give you glory, along with your eternal Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Congregation: Thank you, Lord, for your body and blood, given for us. Help us to live as one in you.

Communion

Congregation gathers around Communion Table.

Matthew 26:26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'

Hymn - Oh, How I Love Jesus

Oh, how I love Jesus (3x)

Because he first loved me.

To me, it's so wonderful (3x)

Because he first loved me.

Sharing Praises And Prayer Concerns

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Sending

As you leave this place,

lift up your eyes to the Lord!

The One who sent Jesus Christ,

as salvation for all the world,

will never desert you.

The Lord will keep your going out

and your coming in, from this time on,

and forevermore.

Go now in peace, with God's blessing.