

Durham Mennonite Church

November 10, 2024



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER MIDST DISCOURAGEMENT

Rock who transcends the ages,

Shelter for the distressed,

Such are the seasons

when we struggle for footing,

Such are the times

when we search for landmarks

Such are the days

when inner strength fails

Such are the moments

when shadows veil the heart.

**Be not far from us who walk in twilight,
Befriend us who yearn for company,
Lift sagging spirits,
Restore horizons and hope,
Enrich us with your nearness,
Enliven song and prayer with your Spirit,
As we seek the new creation in times like
these.**

For love of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

HYMN - AS PANTS THE HEART

**1 As pants the heart for cooling streams
when heated in the chase,
so longs my soul, O God, for thee,
and thy refreshing grace.**

**2 For thee, my God, the living God,
my thirsty soul doth pine:
O when shall I behold thy face,
thou majesty divine?**

**3 God of my strength, how long shall I,
like one forgotten, mourn—
Forlorn, forsaken, and exposed
to my oppressor's scorn?**

**4 Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
hope still, and thou shalt sing
the praise of him who is thy God,
thy health's eternal spring.**

**5 Creator, Son, and Spirit One,
the God whom we adore,
be glory as it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

SCRIPTURE - PSALM 126:4-6

4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

like the watercourses in the Negeb.

5 May those who sow in tears

reap with shouts of joy.

6 Those who go out weeping,

bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy,

carrying their sheaves.

HYMN - VT #57

HOLY SPIRIT, COME WITH POWER

**Holy Spirit, come with power,
breathe into our aching night.
We expect you this glad hour,
waiting for your strength and light.
We are fearful, we are ailing,
we are weak and selfish too.
Break upon your congregation,
give us vigor, life anew.**

**Holy Spirit, come with fire,
burn us with your presence new.
Let us as one mighty choir
sing our hymn of praise to you.
Burn away our wasted sadness
and enflame us with your love.
Burst upon your congregation,
give us gladness from above.**

**Holy Spirit, bring your message,
burn and breathe each word anew
deep into our tired living
till we strive your work to do.
Teach us love and trusting kindness,
lend our hands to those who hurt.
Breathe upon your congregation
and inspire us with your word.**

HYMN - VT#180

THIS IS GOD'S WONDROUS WORLD

**This is God's wondrous world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings,
and round me rings**

the music of the spheres.

This is God's wondrous world;

I rest me in the thought

of rocks and trees,

of skies and seas,

the wonders God has wrought.

This is God's wondrous world;

the birds their carols raise,

the morning light,

the dark of night,

declare their Maker's praise.

This is God's wondrous world;

a wand'rer I may roam

Whate'er my lot,

**it matters not,
my heart is still at home.**

**This is God's wondrous world;
oh, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong
seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.**

**This is God's wondrous world;
the battle is not done.**

**Jesus who died
shall be glorified,
and earth and heav'n be one.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God,
so often we look at ourselves,
our gifts and our talents, and wonder
what you would do with these offerings.
We don't think that we have much to give.
So, far too many times, we belittle the gifts
and turn our backs on the needs
and opportunities present to serve,
believing that our gifts
cannot possibly make a difference.
We think that we must possess
the greatest of talents and wealth
in order to truly please and serve you.
How foolish we are!

**Forgive us when we stop listening
to your healing and comforting words**

and focus on our anxieties.

Heal us, Lord!

Help us know that you have given to us such blessings and that these blessings are truly wonderful and meant to be used to joy and service to others.

Help us to bring our lives, just as they are, to you and to receive your gentle touch and healing grace.

For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God has given to each one of us such blessings and talents. With joy we bring these gifts to God. You are blessed by God's absolute love for you. Rejoice in that love and find healing and hope. AMEN.

HYMN - VT #740 SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

Spirit of the Living God

Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God

Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me

Fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God

Fall afresh on me.

SCRIPTURE - RUTH 3:1-5/4:13-17

Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor

1 Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. 2 Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3 Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.” 5 She said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.”

The Genealogy of David

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin, and may his name be renowned in Israel! 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom and became his nurse. 17 The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

SCRIPTURE - 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-31

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 - MARK 12:38-44

Jesus Denounces the Scribes

38 As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, 39 and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! 40 They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

The Widow's Offering

41 He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.

42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 43

Then he called his disciples and said to them,

“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to

the treasury. 44 For all of them have

**contributed out of their abundance; but she
out of her poverty has put in everything she
had, all she had to live on.”**

SERMON - JONATHAN LARSON

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 - VT#812

SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,

our true faith confessing,

the people of God

from this dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended.

Oh, now be extended

the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching,

receptive souls reaching,

shall blossom in action for God and for all.

Your grace shall incite us,

your love shall unite us

to work for your kingdom

and answer your call.

**2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children,
the whole human race.**

**With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ
and his name that we bear.**