

Durham Mennonite Church

December 1, 2024



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**Lord, our source of life and hope,
as we come together this day,
open our ears to hear,
open our eyes to see,
and open our hearts to love,
that we may come to know your ways
and follow your paths.**

**Help us grow in love for one another,
and for all creation,**

**as we prepare for the coming of the one
who calls us to turn from our false gods
to you, Holy One,
the true source of our salvation. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Have you seen itthe Spark of Hope which
God is placing among us?

All we can see is hopelessness and fear.

Look again.....the spirit of God is moving,
bringing hope.

**We need to place our hope in God,
but we are afraid.**

A long time ago, people were afraid and God brought to them Light. May God bring that light to us today! AMEN.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Today we light one candle - the Candle called HOPE, as a reminder that God's promises are true.

We place our hope in God.

We place our lives in God's care.

Come, all is ready. Let the light of this one candle, called HOPE, bring brightness to your spirits.

HYMN - VT#218

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

**Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Come thou universal Savior;
Come, redeem the human race.
Life and joy spring from thy favor;
Cheer each soul in need of grace.
Still we wait for thine appearing
Make our senseless struggles cease.
Guide us from our weary wand'ring
Into paths of perfect peace.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us for- ever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

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 - 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.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Loving Creator, you call us to rejoice
in your promise of the birth that is to come,
but we are afraid.

**You invite us into a world
where justice and righteousness prevail,
but we turn away in fear.**

We long for an easy path
into your promised world,
but you warn us that there is no easy way.

Birth new life within us,

**that we may abide in your perfect love —
the love that casts out fear.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**God's mercy and steadfast love endure,
strengthening our hearts and overcoming
our**

**fears. God will remove every obstacle that
keeps us from being the body of Christ.
Amen.**

HYMN - VT#212

COMFORT, COMFORT, O MY PEOPLE

Comfort, comfort O my people,

**Speak of peace, now says our God.
Comfort those who sit in shadows,
Mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak unto Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them.
Tell of all the sins I cover,
and that warfare now is over.**

**Hark, the voice of one who's crying
in the desert far and near,
bidding all to full repentance,
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Valleys, rise in exaltation;
hills, bow down in adoration!**

**Oh, make straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain.**

**Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits a holy reign.**

**For the glory of our God
now o'er earth is shed abroad
And all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.**

SCRIPTURE - Psalm 25:1-10

**To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my
God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to
shame; do not let my enemies exult over
me. Do not let those who wait for you be
put to shame; let them be ashamed who
are wantonly treacherous. Make me to
know your ways, O LORD; teach me your
paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; for you
I wait all day long. Be mindful of your**

mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

SCRIPTURE - Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Righteous Branch and the Covenant with

David

14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and

**righteousness in the land. 16 In those days
Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live
in safety. And this is the name by which it
will be called: “The LORD is our
righteousness.”**

SCRIPTURE - 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

**11 Now may our God and Father himself
and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12
And may the Lord make you increase and
abound in love for one another and for all,
just as we abound in love for you. 13 And
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before our God
and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus
with all his saints.**

SCRIPTURE - Luke 21:25-36

The Coming of the Son of Man

25 “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”[a]

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

29 Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Exhortation to Watch

34 “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

VIDEO

**SERMON - “Christ Is Our Hope” - 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 - STJ #78

**SIZOHAMBA NAYE (WE WILL WALK WITH
GOD)**

Sizohamba naye, wo wo wo, Sizohamba naye.

(2x)

Ngomhla wenjabula sizohamba naye. (2x)

We will walk with God, my brothers;

We will walk with God.

We will walk with God, my brothers;

We will walk with God.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

We will walk with God, my sisters;

We will walk with God.

We will walk with God, my sisters;

We will walk with God.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

HYMN - VT#71 JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Praising thee their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Blooming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever bless'd,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Leading us with mercy's hand.
Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music lifts us sunward
In the triumph song of life.**

SENDING

**Go into the world awake to the signs
of God's invitations to new life.**

**Know that the reign of Christ draws nearer
with each right action we choose. Amen.**