

Durham Mennonite Church

December 8, 2024



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Blessed is the Lord, and blessed are God's people to whom God sends a savior, the Messiah, who is Christ the Lord. Blessed is our God, and blessed are his gifts of hope and peace to a world that is full of suffering. Lord, come dwell among us, we need a Savior. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

When darkness, fear and anxiety seek to claim our lives, to whom can we turn in our trouble?

Seek the Lord. In God there is peace and hope. A voice has proclaimed it so.

In the midst of all turmoil, the Word rings strong and true. God is faithful, loving and just.

Prepare us for this advent journey, O Lord. Help us to proclaim your love boldly for all those who need to hear.

AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Today we light two Advent candles.

The first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

Seek God's peace in times of uncertainty and difficulties.

Come, all is ready. Let the light of this these candles, called HOPE and PEACE, bring comfort and brighten your spirits.

HYMN - VT#216

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

HYMN - VT#218

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Litany - What Be This 'Baptism of Repentance'?

Tell us, seekers all, what be this baptism of repentance?

It be a cleansing from paths perverse from neglect, from waywardness, and love of sleep.

Yes, and tell us, seekers all, what more be this baptism of repentance?

It be a cleansing from all that was omitted, all that was withheld, the fruit of willful blindness.

Yes, and tell us, seekers all, what more be this baptism of repentance?

**It be a washing from insurmountable cruelties,
from stones heaped up 'gainst the tide of
heaven's mercies.**

Yes, and tell us, seekers all, what more be this
baptism of repentance?

**It be a washing from stumbling byways, from
alleys paved with profanities.**

Yes, and tell us, seekers all, what more be this
baptism of repentance?

**It be a purging of all that is pitted and
potholed, ways empty of grace and joy.**

***Hasten now, one and all, you happy ones
summoned to embrace without shame the
One awaited by the ages. He knocks already
at the threshold. Surrender to the waters***

now. Then with amended life, go to meet the Beloved of heaven. AMEN

HYMN - VT #661

ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS I STAND

SCRIPTURE - LUKE 3:1-6

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea

and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,
2 during the high priesthood of Annas and
Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son
of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into
all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a
baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of
sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words
of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the
wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made

low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of

God.' ”

VIDEO - PREPARE THEE THE WAY OF THE LORD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSkIz4Xm09U>

SERMON - "TURNING FOR HOME"

JONATHAN LARSON

HYMN - O HAPPY DAY

O happy day that fixed my choice

On thee my Savior and my God.

Well may this glowing heart rejoice

And tell its raptures all abroad.

Happy day, happy day,

When Jesus washed my sins away!

He taught me how to watch and pray

And live rejoicing every day

Happy day, happy day!

When Jesus washed my sins away!

O happy bond that seals my vows

To him who merits all my love!

Let cheerful anthems fill his house

While to that sacred shrine I move.

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 #239 He Came Down

SENDING

**Peace be with you and with all whom you
love. Go now into God's world with God's
peace in your hearts and lives. Go in hope
and peace. AMEN.**