

# Durham Mennonite Church

July 12, 2020 Order of Worship

**Gathering** - 10:15 to 10:30

**Call to Worship** - Marcia

**Hymn** – Great is thy faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liQzzc41z5Q>

**Hymn** – Come let us all unite to sing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WM67XFmS6hE>

**Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance** – Marcia

**Scripture** – Matthew 13:1- 23

**Message** – “The Reckless Sower” Jim Somerville

<https://asermonforeverysunday.com/>

**Response to message** – Renee

**Sharing praise and prayer requests** – Renee

**The Lord’s Prayer** – Renee

**Hymn** – I know whom I have believed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRV3J4n8cc>

**Benediction** – Marcia

## Opening Prayer

Jesus, you promised that wherever two or three are gathered in your name, there you will be also. Here we are. As we gather and worship you may your Spirit dwell within us. We thank you for your presence in our lives, even when we don't recognize it. Help us to be ready to become stronger witnesses for your love as we receive your word and find our spirits and lives healed. AMEN.

## Call to Worship

L: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits....

**P: So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root....**

L: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits....

**P: Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.**

L: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits....

**P: These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.**

L: Hear and receive God's word!

**P: May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root. AMEN.**

## **Hymn – Great is thy faithfulness**

## **Hymn – Come let us all unite to sing**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Heavenly Father,  
we come to you this day  
with so many things on our hearts and minds.  
Some of the events this week have been very positive  
and have caused us to celebrate;  
but we are constantly besieged by worries, doubts and fears.  
These negative things crowd out your word  
and we become like the useless soil,  
unable to receive and grow.  
Slow us down.  
Continue to pour your love on us  
because we really hunger and thirst for it.  
Forgive us when we allow all the negativity  
to drown out your word.  
Scatter again the seeds of peace, love, hope and joy  
that we may be better disciples for you in this world  
which is in so much pain. AMEN.

### **Words of Assurance**

Here's the Good News!  
God is never going to stop showering us with God's love.  
All the time....everywhere...always for us.  
Hallelujah!

## Matthew 13:1-23 New International Version (NIV)

### The Parable of the Sower

**13** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. **2** Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. **3** Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4** As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5** Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6** But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. **8** Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. **9** Whoever has ears, let them hear."

**10** The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

**11** He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. **12** Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. **13** This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see;  
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

<sup>14</sup> In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

<sup>15</sup> For this people’s heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts

and turn, and I would heal them.’<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup> For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

<sup>18</sup> “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is

the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

## **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 – I know whom I have believed**

## **Benediction**

**As you have received the seeds of faith and hope;  
go now into God's world to scatter the seeds  
of reconciliation and peace,  
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. AMEN.**