

Durham Mennonite Church

October 18, 2020 Order of Worship

Gathering - 10:15 to 10:30

Announcements – Marcia Nice

Opening Prayer – Marcia

Call to Worship – Marcia

Song video –Oceans

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Scripture – Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Scripture – 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Message – Jonathan Robie

Sharing praise and prayer requests - Marcia

The Lord's Prayer – Marcia

Song video - Because He Lives

Benediction – Marcia

Announcements

Opening Prayer

God, you are our refuge! When the world gets to be too much for us, we turn to you for consolation and healing. Help us today to hear your words of hope and compassion. Help us to be those who would faithfully spread the Good News of Christ and willingly serve all people in need. May your favor rest upon us. For we ask these things in the name of Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

Call to Worship - Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

**Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

**A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.**

Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—
they are like the new grass of the morning:

**In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.**

We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.

**You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

All our days pass away under your wrath;
we finish our years with a moan.

**Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;**

yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

If only we knew the power of your anger!

Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.

Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Relent, Lord! How long will it be?

Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

**Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.**

May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendor to their children.

**May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.**

Song video - Oceans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2PNTq -mZs>

Prayer of Confession

We are so easily pulled this way and that
by those who would promise instant healing
for all the world's woes.

We want to have everything be whole and happy,
and we're not sure what to do,
so we pay attention to those voices that speak the loudest,
whether they are voices of blame or promise.

In our fearfulness, we love to place blame
for all our woes on the shoulders of others.

In our anguish, we seek instant answers
from sources that are very unreliable.

Lord, help us! Turn us around.

Help us know that you are our Lord
and that you will be with us always.

You have blessed our lives!

Heal and restore our spirits, Lord.

Help us truly place our trust in you
and to work in ministries that uplift and encourage people.

This prayer we offer in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Assurance of Grace

The Lord has given us many gifts and abilities to work for peace and justice in this world.

Go into this world in confidence of God's presence and love for you. AMEN.

Scripture – Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. (This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said:

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will

prosper.” Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the Lord.

This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

Scripture – 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Message – Jonathan Robie

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 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.

Song video – Because He Lives

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWL0EyhlmqS>

Benediction (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.