

Durham Mennonite Church

March 21, 2021 - Order of Worship

Gathering - 10:15 to 10:30

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Hymn – How Great Thou Art

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Scripture – Numbers 21:4–9

Scripture – 2 Kings 18:1-8

Scripture - John 3:1-15

Sermon – Jonathan Robie

Reflection Time

Hymn - How Firm a Foundation

Sharing praise and prayer requests

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn - Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

O Lord, our God, you are worthy of all our praise.
You are the God who never fails to keep his promises.
We thank you that in Jesus' life, death and resurrection
we see your love, justice, mercy, provision and victory.
You are the God who lifts up those who are weighed down.
You are the God who provides for your children.
Our desire is to praise you as long as we live.
Inhabit our praises as we gather together today.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Call to Worship

L: From the very beginning, God created all in love.
P: Yet we turned from that love and sought our own way.
L: God continues to call us to return again to God's love.
P: How shall we return?
L: Let us cast down our burdens
P: For God promises to gather them up.
L: Let us place our trust in God.
P: For God alone provides for our every need. AMEN.

Hymn - [How Great Thou Art](#)

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Creator of all that is, who gives Grace and life:
Hear our prayer.

There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us
From one another and from You.

We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,
For fear of admitting our part in the separation,
For fear of being rejected when we reach out.

You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,
To a wholeness with each other and with You.

Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations
Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends, hear this Good News:
the love of God is beyond measure,
and you are included in that love.
Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.
Alleluia! Amen.

Scripture - Numbers 21:4–9

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

⁶Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Scripture - 2 Kings 18:1-8

In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah, daughter of Zechariah. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done. He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)

Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the Lord and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the Lord had given Moses. And the Lord was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. From watchtower to fortified city, he defeated the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory.

Scripture - John 3:1-15

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Message – Jonathan Robie

Reflection Time

Hymn - [How Firm a Foundation](#)

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.

Hymn - 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

(Numbers 6:24-26)