

Durham Mennonite Church

March 2, 2025



Welcome to Durham Mennonite Church

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we have gathered here in your name as an act of faith, believing that you are not only among us, but that you love us. As your children we yearn for your love, seek your mercy, and want to dwell in your presence always. Help us today in our worship, that we might seek you with our whole heart and be transparent before you, as you reveal yourself to each one of us. Amen.

LITANY from PSALM 99

(Call to Worship)

The Lord reigns, let the people tremble in wonder!

God sits enthroned above the cherubim, let the earth shake!

The Lord is great in Zion, exalted and magnified above all the nations.

They whisper your great and awesome name; Holy is the Lord.

Mighty is the One who loves justice and equity.

You have established fairness;

You have founded justice and righteousness in Israel.

Exalt the Lord our God humbly; for such a One is holy.

Our forebears called upon God's name.

They called upon the Lord who spoke to
them in the cloudy pillar,

**They heeded God's decrees and statutes
handed down to them.**

And when they went astray they met with
God's forgiveness.

**So let us not fail to esteem and live in the
shelter of such greatness.**

This is the One who dwells on the sacred
mountain.

All: O worship the Lord, the Holy One!

HYMN - VT #98 - Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

**1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of
Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we
praise.**

**2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in
might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring
above,
thy clouds, which are fountains of
goodness and love.**

**3 To all life thou givest, to both great and
small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the
tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth
thee.**

**4 Great Father of glory, great God of all
light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their
sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to
see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.**

HYMN - VT #103 - JOYFUL, JOYFUL

**1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs 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!**

**2 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.**

**3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Known in Jesus, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are thine.
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.**

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord, you call us, your children, to draw near,
yet we fail to hear your voice.

Forgive us, O Lord!

Have mercy on us, as we silently open our hearts

and confess our sins:

(Time of silence)

**Hear our pleas, O God,
and lift us to newness of life
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**We worship a forgiving God,
whose mercy is never ending,
whose heart abounds in steadfast love.
Because of the love of Jesus Christ,
nothing can separate us from the love of
God.**

HYMN - VT #162 The love of God

1 The love of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
it goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell.

The wand'ring child is reconciled
by God's beloved Son.

The aching soul again made whole,

and priceless pardon won.

Refrain:

O love of God, how rich and pure!

How measureless and strong!

It shall forevermore endure—

the saints' and angels' song.

2 When ancient time shall pass away,

and human thrones and kingdoms fall;

when those who here refuse to pray

on rocks and hills and mountains call;

God's love so sure, shall still endure,

all measureless and strong;

grace will resound the whole earth round—

the saints' and angels' song.

Refrain:

O love of God, how rich and pure!

How measureless and strong!

It shall forevermore endure—

the saints' and angels' song.

3 Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made;
were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,
and ev'ryone a scribe by trade;
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,

though stretched from sky to sky.

Refrain:

O love of God, how rich and pure!

How measureless and strong!

It shall forevermore endure—
the saints' and angels' song.

SCRIPTURE - LUKE 9:28-36

The Transfiguration

28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30 Suddenly

they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said. 34While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” 36When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in

those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

SCRIPTURE - LUKE 9:37-43

Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon

37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. 38 Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. 39 Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. 40 I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." 41 Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." 42 While he was coming, the demon

dashed him to the ground in convulsions.
But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed
the boy, and gave him back to his father. 43
And all were astounded at the greatness of
God.

MESSAGE - JONATHAN LARSON

“The Transfiguration and Healing of a Boy”



CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

SHARING PRAISES AND PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF 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.

COMMUNION PRAYER

At the table of Christ, we eat this bread and drink this cup to remember the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, to be united with Christ and with one another as the church, and to look toward a time when all will be one.

As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, Jesus Christ is present with us and we are empowered by the Spirit to follow Jesus' way of love as the body of Christ, broken and blessed for the life of the world.

As John baptized Jesus in the Jordan, the Holy Spirit baptized the body of Christ. God now gathers us at this table as the body of Christ to hear the voice of heaven, spoken

over the waters of baptism, saying, “You are my beloved.”

**Water, bread, and wine,
The gifts of the earth,
The gifts of the church,
Reveal that we belong
With God and one another.**

In wonder, we remember the life Jesus lived, laid down, and took up again for us.

Send your Spirit upon us, O God, so that the bread we break and the cup we share may be the communion of the body of Christ. Send your Spirit upon us, so that we can live, conformed to Christ. Amen.

GATHER TOGETHER FOR COMMUNION

HYMN - VT#461 - COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table;

it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Leader:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat of my body, broken for you. Partake of it together, and so remember me."

SONG - LOVE LIFTED ME

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!

When nothing else could help

Love lifted me

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!

When nothing else could help

Love lifted me

Leader: Christ body broken for you.

(everyone eat together)

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people. Drink it together, and so remember me."

HYMN - VT#136 - SANTO, SANTO

Leader: Christ blood shed for you.

(everyone drink together)

Leader: The gifts of God for the people
of God.

Everyone: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray together...

Blessed are you, Eternal God,

Through this Holy meal

You have joined us to yourself

And to one another.

Blessed are you, Incarnate God;

You have put your life into our hands;

Now we put our lives into yours.

Blessed are you, Breath of God;

As we go forth, set us free

To follow where you lead. Amen.

HYMN - HWB #303 - COME, GRACIOUS SPIRIT

**Come, gracious Spirit, heav'nly Dove,
with light and comfort from above.**

**Come, be our guardian and our guide;
o'er every thought and step preside,
O'er every thought and step preside.**

**The light of truth to us display
And make us know and choose your way
Plant holy fear in every heart
that we from God may ne'er depart
that we from God may ne'er depart.**

**Lead us to Christ, the living Way,
nor let us from his pastures stray.
Lead us to holiness, the road
that we must take to dwell with God,**

that we must take to dwell with God.

**Lead us to heav'n, that we may share
fullness of joy forever there.**

**Lead us to our eternal rest,
to be with God forever bless'd,
to be with God forever bless'd.**

SENDING