

Durham Mennonite Church

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Pastor: Spencer Bradford

Elders: Jackie Carroll-Garcia, Eliza Griffith, Cheryl Van Horn

A Congregation of the Virginia Mennonite Conference & Mennonite Church USA

January 7, 2018

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship Leader – Eliza Griffith, Music Leader – Spencer Bradford

PRAISING OUR CREATOR WHO CALLS US

Call to Worship and Lighting of Christ Candle (*Psalms 18:1-3, 28*)

I love you, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield and my stronghold.

I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so I shall be saved from my enemies.

It is you who light my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.

Opening Praise Songs

Hymn #214 - *Morning Star*

Hymn #216 - *Christ Whose Glory*

Hymn #129 – *Fire of God*

Confession of Sin and Assurance

Lord of Light, we have walked in darkness, and loved the darkness of our own fear and blindness instead of your light of faith and hope.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Lord of Peace, we have desired the destruction of those we judge and hate in our anger. We have struck out with our thoughts, words and deeds.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Lord of Grace, we have thought ourselves better than one another. We have felt entitled to your favor and the favor of the world, rather than grateful and generous with your gifts.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

‘The cords of death encompassed me; the floods of destruction assailed me; the cords of the grave entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple God heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears. God reached down from on high, he took me; he drew me out of mighty waters.’ (*from Psalm 18*)

Passing the Peace

Announcements

Hymn #162 – *The God Abraham Praise*

HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Exodus 2:11- 3:12

Romans 15:7-21

Mark 4:21-23

Sermon – *Who Am I?*

Spencer Bradford

RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY

Testimonies, Sharing and Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal #731)

Offering and Offertory – *Who Am I?*

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (see bulletin insert)

Sharing of Bread and Cup at the Lord's Table

RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn #334 – *Christ is the World's True Light*

Sending to Serve (*Romans 16:24-27*)

Now, to God who is able to strengthen you according to our gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,

according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophets is made known to all the nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—

to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be all glory forever!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Pray for Mennonite Missions: Mennonite Mission Network partners Juanita and Lawrence Coetzee lead Grace Community Church in Cradock, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Pray for them as they also work in a local prison for juveniles and help the young men there find new meaning in their lives.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AND THE SEASON

1/14: Exodus 3:13-22; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:26-39; Mark 1:9-13
Worship Leader, Jackie Carroll-Garcia; Music, Aaron Griffith.

1/21: Exodus 4:1-20; Jerem. 16:14-21; Romans 1:8-17; Mark 1:14-20
Worship Leader, Lowell Tieszen; Music, Kevin Nice

1/28: Exodus 5:1- 6:13; Hosea 5:13- 6:6; 2 Thess. 3:1-5; Mark 1:21-34
Worship Leader, Renee Collins Bradford; Music, Cheryl Van Horn

Happy Birthday to Stephen Paul (1/10)!

Sunday, Jan.21 – Potluck Fellowship Meal and Church Meeting after Worship.

Tuesdays, starting Jan. 9 – Quilting at DMC!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Annual March – Monday, January 15, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., begins at NC Mutual Building, 411 W. Chapel Hill St., and ends with program inside First Presbyterian Church, 305 E Main St. Bring a children's book to donate for BookHarvest!

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 5:45-8:00 p.m. – Annual Banquet of Durham Congregations in Action, at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church, 504 W. Chapel Hill St. Keynote Speaker, Mayor Steve Schewel. \$15 per plate, RSVP to dcia@dcia.org or 919-682-0538.

Annual Service of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 25, 7:00 p.m., Yates Baptist Church. Ecumenical celebration and call to unity among diverse Christian traditions.

MCC Washington Office high school essay contest: Do you have a passion for writing about the causes you care about? The MCC Washington Office is now accepting submissions for its annual high school essay contest! This year's topics include **climate change, foreign assistance and mass incarceration.** Anabaptist youth who are of high school age within the U.S. and Puerto Rico are eligible to enter and win up to \$1,000! The deadline for submitting essays is January 26, 2018. To learn more, visit mcc.org/essay-contest.



The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness

DURHAM MENNONITE CHURCH

Front art: "Burning Bush" D.H. Green, 2009

*Our mission is to restore people to relationships of communion
with God and each other in Christ.*

*We will practice this mission through our worship and witness,
our discipling, fellowship and service.*

THE COMMUNION OF THANKSGIVING

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. We come in grateful celebration of Jesus' cross and resurrection, giving from our receiving, inviting as we have been invited, serving as we are served, renewing our bond to the narrow way of Jesus. There is room at his table for all who follow Jesus in God's covenant of grace and obedience.

The Lord is God, compassionate and gracious, overflowing in loving mercy and steadfast kindness. Blessed be God, now and forever!

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hills are now united on this table in bread and drink, so Lord, may we be made a true community of your Spirit as your Body on earth, and may your whole people soon be gathered together from across the earth in your Kingdom of holy peace.

Come, Lord Jesus! To you be glory forever!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise to the Lord, because he is good; his love is eternal.

Truly, it is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to offer our praise, worship, and thanksgiving to you, Almighty and Ever-living God. For your generous creating grace, for redemption from slavery and sin, and for calling your people into obedient love through your law, prophets, and apostles, we joyfully unite our voices to the heavenly host offering the angelic hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might!
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace on earth, goodwill toward all!**

For your Son Jesus Christ, your Word, in whom you became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, your glory present with us, Emmanuel; for his humility in the stable and his vulnerability as an infant; for his mercy and teaching, summoning us to your life and truth; for his death and resurrection to bring forgiveness while we were your enemies killing him; for life in his Spirit, free from sin and death; for our communion with him in his Body, and the promise of his return in your full kingdom.

Blessed are you, Creator Spirit, who makes all things new!

Come, Spirit of Christ, and fulfill the promise of your kingdom among us, as your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago. For on another night, the night that he was betrayed, during supper, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink from this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." So with praise and thanksgiving, we offer to you all these gifts and our very selves, received from your grace, to be a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's self-giving for us and for the whole world:

**We praise you, we bless you, we worship and thank you,
O Lord our God.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon this communion, on us gathered here and on these gifts, that the sharing of this bread and cup may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Sanctify and fill us with your true presence, that in all our lives we may be for the world the Body of Christ, Christ's presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us. As we share your presence anew at this table of your giving, let us share your presence with the world in the giving of our lives and selves, in your service for all people. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one in fellowship with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until we feast together at your heavenly table with all your saints. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

AMEN.