

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

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship Leader, Lowell Tieszen; Music, Kevin Nice

PRAISING OUR CREATOR WHO CALLS US

Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candle (from Psalm 99)

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

for the LORD our God is holy!

The King in his might loves justice. God carries out justice and establishes equity.

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

Opening Worship Songs

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Grace (adapted from 1 Thess. 5)

We appeal to you, brothers and sisters, and we urge you:

Be at peace among yourselves.

We confess we love our own will and priorities more than peace.

We admonish the faint-hearted and failing, and encourage the covetous. We envy the idle. We celebrate the strong and ignore the weak. We are impatient, we want to repay evil with evil, eye for an eye. We have smothered your Spirit with our self-assertion, and we cast aside the words of your prophets and apostles when your instruction costs us. But we pray for your forgiveness, with thanks for your generous grace that does good to all.

See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Passing the Peace

Announcements

Hymn

HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Jeremiah 31:1-7

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Mark 1:1-8

Sermon

Spencer Bradford

RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY

Word Made Music – Sing the Story #8, *Wild and Lone*

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal #731)

Offering and Offertory

RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

Sending to Serve (from 1 Thessalonians 5)

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Pray for Mennonite Missions: Mennonite Mission Network's Youth Venture program invites teens and young adults (ages 16-22) to participate in a short-term learning and service experience during the summer of 2018. Pray for open hearts in those whom God is calling to Benin, Ecuador, Japan, Peru or Spain.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AND THE SEASON

12/24: Fourth Sunday of Advent, & Christmas Eve

Exodus 2:1-10; Hosea 11:1-11; 1 Peter 1:1-12; Psalm 132; Jer. 30:1-11;

Romans 1:1-7; Luke 2:1-20

Worship Leader: Sylvia Daniel; Music, Cheryl Van Horn

12/31: New Year's Eve

Exodus 1:5-22; Psalm 20; 1 Peter 4:7-19; Luke 14:25-35

Worship Leader: Aaron Griffith; Music, Carol Detweiler

1/7: Epiphany Sunday, Communion at the Lord's Table

Exodus 2:11-3:12; Ps. 18:1-32; Romans 15:7-21, 16:24-27; Mark 4:21-23

Worship Leader: Eliza Griffith; Music, Aaron Griffith

Upcoming Durham Mennonite Dates:

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 11:45 a.m., Watts St. Baptist Church (800 Watts St.) – DCIA Luncheon, \$7. Program Presentation – Preparing Dementia-Friendly Congregations.

Thursday, Dec. 21, 6:00 p.m., Downtown Durham Farmers Market (Foster St.)
– Homeless Memorial Prayer Vigil.

Next Sunday, Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service of Carols and
Readings, Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren, 601 NC-54, Durham, NC
27713 (just east of the Fayetteville St. intersection with NC Hwy. 54).

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.



***Make straight
A highway for God!***

DURHAM MENNONITE CHURCH

*Front image: "St. John The Baptist Preaching In The Wilderness"
by Kazuya Akimoto, 2012*

*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.*