

Durham Mennonite Church

603 Lynn Road Durham NC 27703 → Telephone (919) 766-0604 (Rom. 6:4)
ecumenno@gmail.com, www.durhammennonite.org

Pastor: Spencer Bradford

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

A Congregation of the Virginia Mennonite Conference & Mennonite Church USA

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship Leader, Sylvia Daniel; Music, Sharyn Tieszen

PRAISING OUR CREATOR WHO CALLS US

Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candle (*adapted from Ps.132*)

The psalm praising God for his messianic promise to David and his presence in the Jerusalem Temple can be prayed by Christians with celebration for the arrival of the promise in Jesus, and praise that Mary carried the Incarnation of God's presence for us, as the Temple and its ark had been a dwelling place for God's presence previously.

The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back:
'One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.

For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his habitation:

'This is my resting-place for ever; here I will reside, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless its provisions; I will satisfy its poor with bread. Its priests I will clothe with salvation, and its faithful will shout for joy. There I will cause a horn to sprout up for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one. His enemies I will clothe with disgrace, but on him, his crown will gleam.'

O Lord, remember in David's favor all the hardships he endured; how he swore to the Lord, 'I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling-place for the Mighty One of Jacob.'

We heard of it in Bethlehem Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar. Let us go to his dwelling-place; let us worship at his footstool.

Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting-place, you and the ark of your might. Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy. For your servant David's sake, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

Opening Songs and Carols

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Grace (*adapted from Hosea 11*)

The Lord says, "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. Yet the more I called them, the more they went from me."

We confess that we offer our lives to idols, we make priorities the false values of false god.

"Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them."

But we have preferred the authorities of this world's empires. War and force rage in our cities. Because of our schemes, violence and oppression consume our religion and devour our lives. We have been bent upon turning away from you, O Most High, and our lives have been cast down. Let us not be destroyed by what we deserve, for you are divine and not like us!

The Lord says, "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I treat you like an enemy? My compassion grows warm and tender, for I am God and not mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. Come after me, my children, like birds from far away, and I will return you to your home.

Passing the Peace

Announcements

Hymn

HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Exodus 2:1-10 –

The birth of Moses, Israel's first deliverer, foreshadowed the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, under threat from a king.

Jeremiah 30:1-10 –

God's promise to raise a Messiah and gather his scattered people.

Hymn

Romans 1:1-7 – *Paul's testimony to the gospel of the Incarnation*

1 Peter 1:1-12 –

Peter's testimony to the joy of fulfilled promise in Christ.

Hymn – *Joy to the World*

Luke 2:1-20

Video Reflection – *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY

Word Made Music – *We Are the Reason*

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 Romans 1:7*)

God's beloved, called by the Holy Spirit as saints, unto you be grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for Mennonite Missions: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for all those who have left homes and families for the sake of the gospel. May they be embraced by the global family of God and be blessed by discovering fresh insights into the meaning of Christmas.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AND THE SEASON

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*

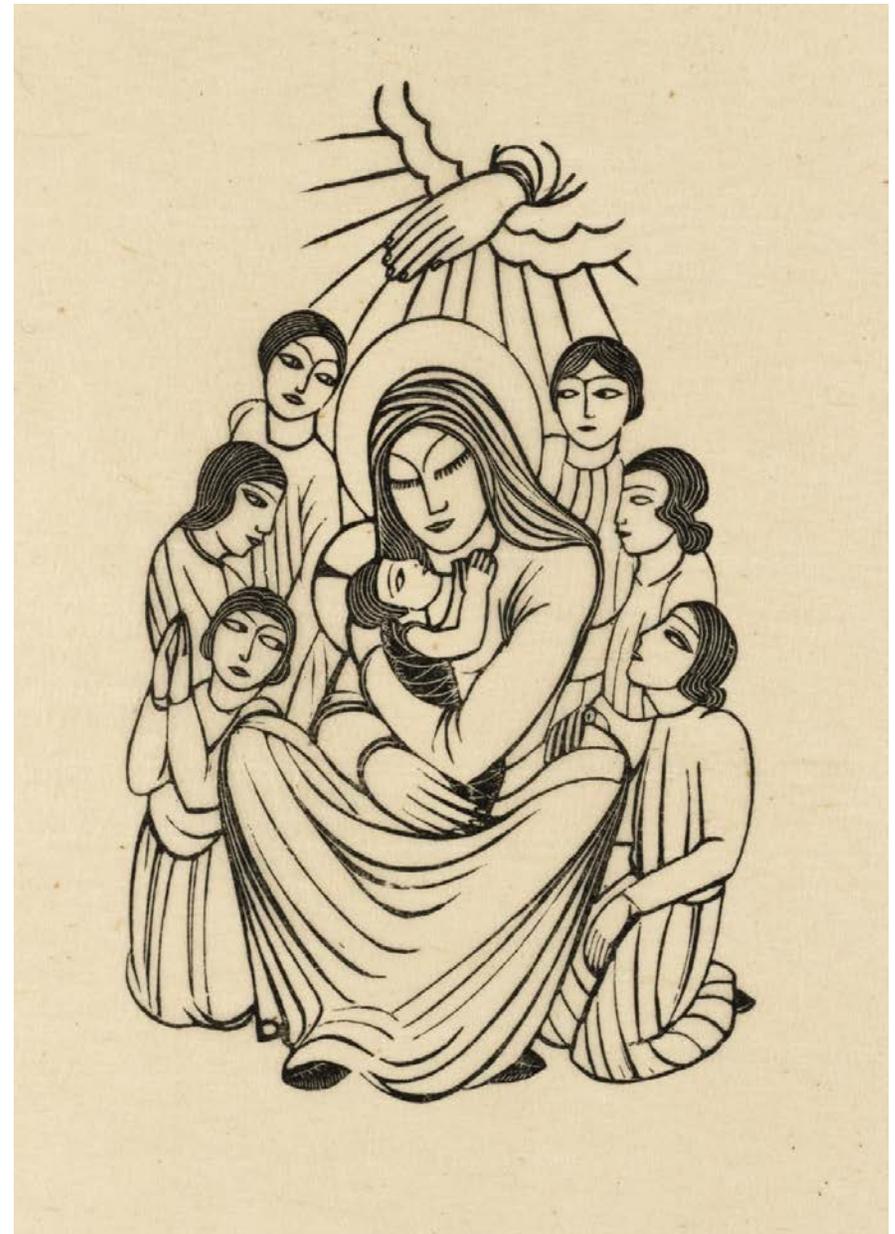
Exodus 2:11-3:12; Ps. 18:1-32; Romans 15:7-21, 16:24-27; Mark 4:21-23

Worship Leader: Eliza Griffith; Music, Aaron Griffith

Upcoming Durham Mennonite Dates:

Today, 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.



Front image: "Madonna and Children," by Eric Gill, 1925

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.

**DURHAM
MENNONITE
CHURCH**