

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 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship Leader, Renee Collins Bradford; Music, Carol Detweiler

PRAISING OUR CREATOR WHO CALLS US

Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candle (*Psalm 93*)

The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty; he is girded with strength.

He has established the world; it shall never be moved.

Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.

**More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,
more majestic than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the Lord!**

Your decrees are very sure;

Holiness befits your house, O Lord, for evermore.

Opening Worship Songs

Hymn #120 – *Holy, Holy, Holy!*

Insert – *Away in a Manger*

Hymn #178 – *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Confession of Sin and Assurance, Hymnal #691

Passing the Peace

Announcements

Hymn #167 – *For God So Loved Us*

HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Joel 2:1-11

2 Peter 3:3-14

Mark 13:1-23

Sermon: *Burning Hope*

Spencer Bradford

RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY

Word Made Music – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal #731)

Offering and Offertory

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*see insert*)

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn, #545 – *Be Thou My Vision*

Sending to Serve (*2 Peter 3:14,15,18*)

Beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by Christ at peace, without spot or blemish. Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation, and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom be glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AND THE SEASON

12/10: *Second Sunday of Advent*

Psalm 21; Jer. 30:18-24; 1 Thess.5:1-11; Mark 13:24-37

Worship Leader: Eliza Griffith; Music, Aaron Griffith

12/17: *Third Sunday of Advent*

Psalm 99; Jeremiah 31:1-7; 1 Thess. 5:12-28; Mark 1:1-8

Worship Leader: Lowell Tieszen; Music, Kevin Nice

Pray for Mennonite Missions: Asher and Lindsey Fast, serving through Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions, are helping to build the after-school program at the Mother Theresa Resource Centre in Botswana. They are also assisting in a local elementary school. Pray for wisdom and energy, and healing for Lindsey's back and neck.

Upcoming Durham Mennonite Dates:

Thursday, 10:30 a.m. – Quilting & Sewing at Durham Mennonite

Today, Dec. 3 –Potluck Fellowship Meal after worship, with short business meeting.

Happy Birthday to Lloyd Nice (12/5) and Erika Daniel (12/14)

Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham, Community Roundtable Luncheon Thursday, December 7 @ 12 noon. Please join us for our final 2017 Community Luncheon Roundtable in the fellowship hall of Shepherd's House UMC (107 N. Driver Street; corner of Main and Driver). Lunch from CORE Catering is free, and all are welcome to break bread with us. Our speaker for this year-end luncheon will be Durham Police Chief C.J. Davis. We're pleased to have Chief Davis join us to reflect on her experience serving Durham thus far and our mutual pursuit of peace in this community.



Who Can Endure?

***DURHAM
MENNONITE
CHURCH***

Front Art: "Stand Up for the Last Judgment" – Wieslaw Sadurski, 1987

*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

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,

Blessed are you, O God, holy and mighty.

For your Son Jesus Christ, our healer and redeemer; for his call to faith and peace; 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!

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Come, Spirit of Christ, and fulfill the promise of your kingdom among us. For on 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, redeemed by his blood. 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.

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AMEN.