

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

Sunday, March 5, 2017

First Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship Leader: Renee Collins Bradford, Music: Rebekah Ackerman

PRAISING OUR CREATOR WHO CALLS US

Call to Worship (*Song of Songs 2:3-4*)

As an apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my Beloved among young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his intention towards me was love.

Opening Songs – Hymnal #555, 560, 614

Rebekah Ackerman

Confession of Sin (from 1 John 1:6- 2:6)

This is the message we have heard from Christ and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. Whoever says, ‘I have come to know him’, but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached completeness. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says, ‘I abide in him’, ought to walk just as he walked.

Lord, we confess that we have walked in darkness, and lied to ourselves that we were still in fellowship with Christ. We have disobeyed your commands and doubted your love. We have not walked as Jesus walked by following his word. We have not spoken nor acted truthfully. Help us to face our sin, to embrace the truth of God’s light, and to welcome his word in us. Grant us to walk in the light as you yourself are in light; restore our fellowship with one another, and cleanse us from all sin by the blood of Jesus your Son. Amen.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Passing the Peace

Announcements

Hymn #352 – *Gentle Shepherd*

HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Genesis 2:4-3:24

Ezekiel 33:10-20

John 8:2-11

Sermon- *Tree of Mercy, Tree of Life*

Spencer Bradford

RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY

Testimonies and Sharing

Collected Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal #731)

Offertory and Offering – *Round About the Mountain*

Communion Thanksgiving Prayer (see bulletin insert)

Sharing of Communion Bread and Cup

RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn #242 – *Stay With Me*

Sending to Serve

God has reconciled us through his Son Jesus Christ, who turned the Cross of Death into the Tree of Life, bearing fruit of life and love. Walk in his way, with humility and mercy, and may the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep you free from sin and satisfied in his grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

1 Kings 8: 3-34; Malachi 2: 17-3: 7b; 1John 2: 15-27; John 2: 13-25

Pray for Mennonite Missions: A Mennonite Mission Network family with two young children is serving in Turkey. Pray that this family may hold the light and hope of Jesus in an uncertain political environment, and that they may find friends and other believers to encourage them in difficult times.

Upcoming Durham Mennonite Dates:

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study at Ruby Batten’s.

Today, March 5, Potluck Fellowship after Worship

Friday, March 17, Fellowship & music evening at DMC. St. Patrick’s Day cookies?

Friday, Mar. 31 – Prep and serve supper for 200 at Urban Ministries of Durham.

Sunday, April 2, Hot Dog Lunch after Morning Worship,

CROP Walk at 2:00 pm, begins at Duke Chapel.

April 13, Maundy Thursday Love Feast with Footwashing, 6:00-8:00 pm.

April 14, Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Darkness, 7:00 pm.

April 16, Easter Breakfast Potluck, 9:00 a.m.

Happy Birthday to Bonnie Barry (3/8) and to Cheryl Van Horn (3/11)!

Volunteers from our Eastern Carolina District of Mennonite churches will be working on a Mennonite Disaster Service team in Princeville, NC, for rebuilding and renovating flood-damaged homes during the last week of April, 4/24- 4/29.

Sunday, April 2, 2:00 pm - Durham CROP Hunger Walk -- Help hundreds of others in Durham in raising \$200,000 for poverty relief and refugee assistance around the world and here in Durham! Learn more and register at cropwalkdurham@gmail.com and <http://durhamcropwalk.org/>

Today, March 5th, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Durham as a City of Inclusion: A public dialogue with public officials and hundreds of Latino, Muslim and Refugee immigrants who call Durham their home. Gathering starts 2:30 p.m. at the Sanctuary. Immaculate Conception Catholic Church 810 W. Chapel Hill Street Durham, NC 27701. Organized by: Durham CAN and the NC Congress of Latino Organizations.

Tomorrow, Monday, March 6th at 7pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Durham (1737 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27705). Congregations and Sanctuary for Undocumented Neighbors at Risk. Durham faith-communities will consult together about serving their undocumented neighbors through sanctuary hospitality to avoid family separation and deportation. Meeting will be in the Gray Building to the left of the main sanctuary as you enter the church grounds.

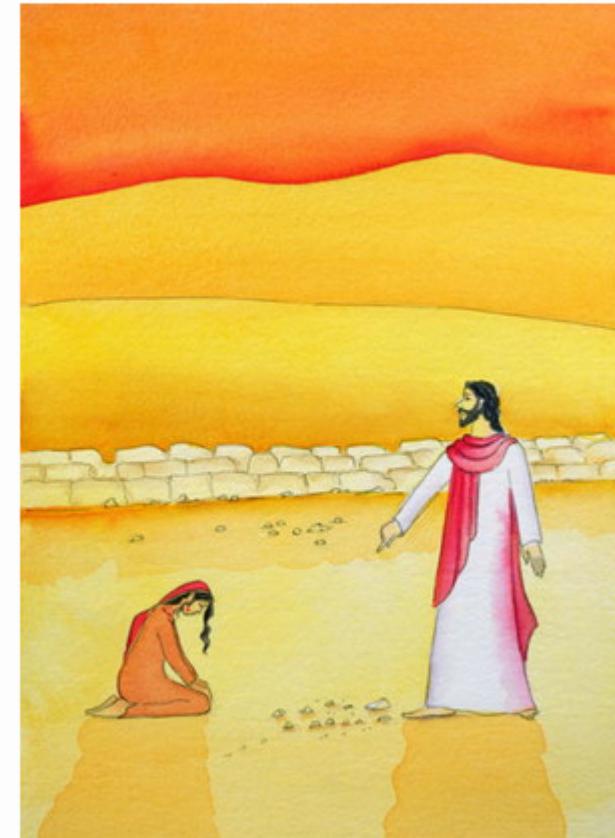
2017 North Carolina Bread for the World Convention, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., March 11, at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 403 E. Main Street, in downtown Durham. "Raising Our Voices to End Hunger: Training Successful Advocates" Keynote Speaker: Gene Nichol, UNC-CH Law Professor with the UNC Center on Poverty, Work & Opportunity. Other speakers -- Rev. David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World (video comments), Rev. Pedro Cruz, BFW National Organizer, U.S. Rep. David Price (invited). Workshops on Ending Hunger through Congressional Lobbying, Using Social Media to End Hunger, Preparing Your Congregation to Be Successful Hunger Advocates, Ending Hunger in Durham, Sustainable Food Choices, BFW's 2017 Hunger Report. REGISTER at <https://www.2017ncbreadfortheworldconvention.eventbrite.com>

Front Art: "Jesus Forgives the Woman Caught in Adultery" – Elizabeth Wang

*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, witness,
discipling, fellowship and service.*

www.durhammennonite.org



Neither Do I Condemn You

***DURHAM
MENNONITE
CHURCH***

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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