

Our Mission:

Raleigh Mennonite Church is a community growing as disciples of Jesus, the Christ. We nurture growth of the inner spiritual life, seeking transformation through God's grace as followers of Jesus.

We are active in reconciliation and service, making Christ known through sharing the story of God's love and forgiveness with our children, our neighbors and our world. In our lives, we seek justice, healing, hope and peace for all people.

We warmly and actively welcome others to join us on this journey.

Pastor	Melissa F-B
Servant Leaders	Chris H, David R, Karin S, & Rachel T
Church meeting location	1116 North Blount St., Raleigh NC
Mailing address	P.O. Box 25545, Raleigh NC 27611
Website	www.raleighmennonite.org
Facebook	www.facebook.com/raleighmennonite
Instagram	www.instagram.com/raleighmennonite
Email for announcements	bulletin@raleighmennonite.org
<u>Email slides or videos to be projected</u>	AV@raleighmennonite.org

Children in Worship:

Children are encouraged and celebrated in worship. Worship Craft materials are available for use during the service. Nursery is available mid-way through the service for children up to kindergarten. To use our nursery, staffed by volunteers who have undergone our Safe Church Training, meet at the back of the room during the hymn prior to the sermon.

For children and youth who remain in worship, a Church Creation project will be introduced and materials provided. Church Creations are designed to complement the day's scripture reading or another worship theme. While Church Creations are designed with children and youth in mind, adults are invited to participate as materials are available.

Hearing Assistance:

Hearing enhancement devices are available at the A/V table. Even if you do not have a hearing problem, they make what is spoken from the podium much more intelligible.

RMC receives a **public offering** once each month (first Sunday); at other times gifts may be placed in the oak offering box on the back table.

Prayer Concerns

- In many African-American communities, this is Watch Night, anticipating freedom. At midnight on Jan. 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation became law. Though it's 154 years old, that law has not yet been completely fulfilled. Let today's prayer be one of committing to the struggle for justice for all people. (Source: Mennonite Mission Network)
- Praise God for the fulfilment of promises: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1), a child born to bring peace to every heart that receives him. In this season of rejoicing and memory, we pray peace for our brothers and sisters around the world suffering from violence and disasters, and for the transformation of hearts to worship the Prince of Peace. (Source: Mennonite World Conference)
- Please continue to be in prayer for Steve Merritt's family and others who are experiencing grief and loss during this holiday season. May they feel God's presence and peace as they enter the new year.

Scripture Readings

In preparation for next Sunday's worship service (Jan. 7), you are encouraged to read [John 1:35-51](#).

Announcements

Throughout our worship series centering on the Gospel of John, you'll see a mobile with a different image for the week's lesson. Each Sunday we will add a new symbol. Before and after worship, you're welcome to come forward to see the story close up.

Upcoming Events

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| • Fellowship meal & Church Life Meeting | January 21 |
| • Women's beach retreat | April 27-30 |

Birthdays and Anniversaries

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from this list, please contact the bulletin team at bulletin@raleighmennonite.org.

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|----------------------|-----------|
| • Kim B | January 5 |
| • Brenda and Craig H | January 5 |
| • Leah MW | January 8 |

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Adult Sunday School classes, Winter quarter (Dec - Feb)

• **Evangelism Revisited** - Room #5

This class discusses ideas from the book "Evangelism without Additives," and is co-led by John F and Marc S.

• **Sex, Gender, and the Sacred Story** – Room #2

This class studies a guide written by our new (Central District) conference called "Human Sexuality in a Biblical Perspective," and is co-led by Rachel Taylor, Emily B and Claire U.

	Today (Dec 31)	Next Week (Jan 7)
Greeter/ Usher	Lois and Duane B	John and Luz F
Nursery	Marva K and Ruth R	
Sharing	Melissa F-Br	Brenda NM
Sound	Stan NM	Marc S
Bulletin	Pam B	Joanna J
Worship Coordinator	Melissa F-Br	Rachel T
Speaker	Zinith B	Kyle Kentopp

Raleigh Mennonite Church

December 31, 2017

Welcome to our worship!

We are a community seeking to keep Jesus at the center of our lives, aware that we come from a variety of life experiences and points in our faith journeys. God invites us all to worship no matter our cultures, traditions and paths to God. We truly welcome you whatever your religious background or spiritual practice.

Gathering for Worship

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Stephen J

Greeting

Melissa F-Br

["The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman](#)

Joy to the World (WB 318)

Litany for Christ Candle

["Hymns of the Nativity" by Ephrem the Syrian](#)

Comfort, comfort, O my people (WB 176)

Hark! The herald angels sing (WB 201)

Confession and Assurance of Pardon

O Come, all ye faithful (WB 212)

What child is this (WB 215)

(Children are invited to nursery.)

Church Creations

Anne C

Hearing and Responding to God's Word

Scripture: John 1:19-34

Eli S

Sermon ["What Did You Go Out To See?"](#)

Zinith B

Sharing and Prayer

Melissa F-Br

O Lord, hear my prayer (WB 348)