

## Prayers and Praises

**Focus statement:** What am I waiting for? When I call out to God, God hears me and restores my soul. I am a child of God, called to belong and to be redeemed by grace.

**VMMissions :** Michael H. serves near Lancaster, Pa., with Immerse International, an intensive English program. Pray for his family as they continuing exploring and discovering their place in what God is doing there after serving 8+ years in South Asia.

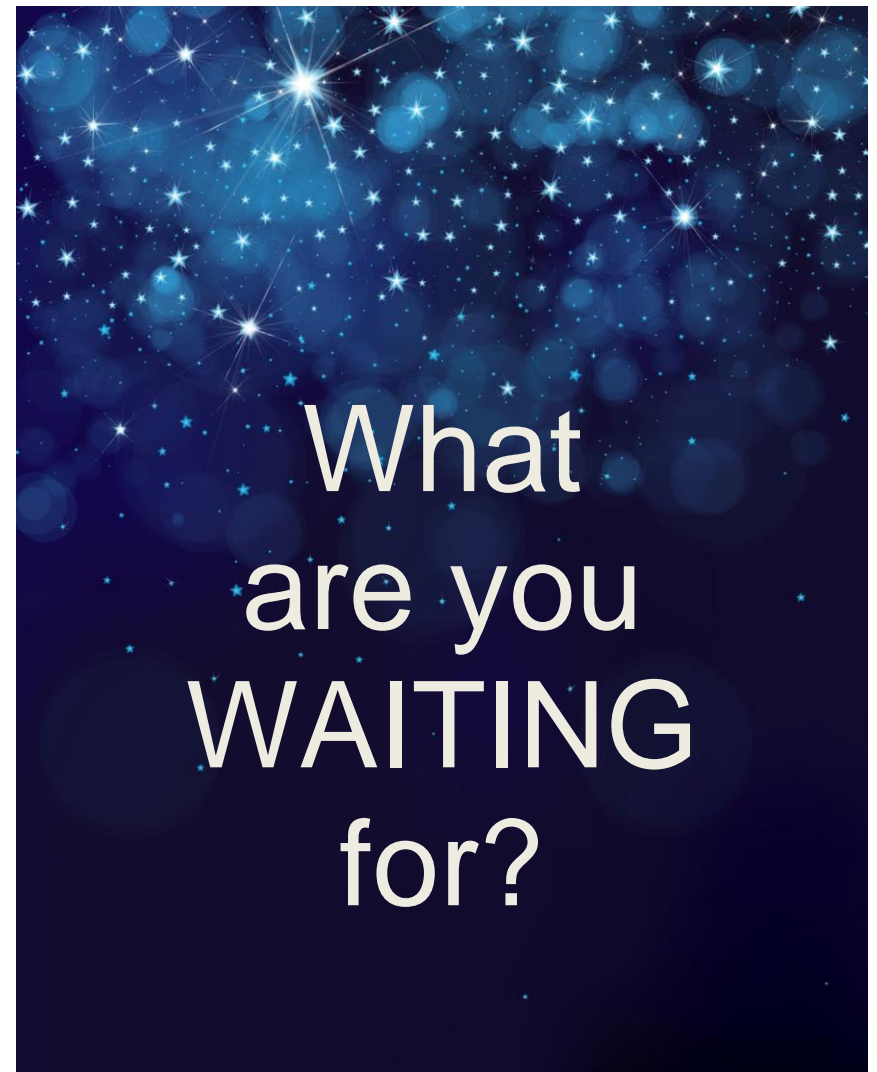
**Mennonite Mission Network:** Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for peace in Burkina Faso. When armed protest groups ambush symbols of Western opulence and colonialism, like hotels and gold mines, civilians get caught in the crossfire. May the Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso live the way of the Prince of Peace through word and deed.

**Pray for the local services for people in need:** Love Inc., Shelter for Help in Emergency, Food Bank, Salvation Army, IMPACT – a justice ministry and PACEM- the initiative for the homeless.



Charlottesville  
Mennonite  
Church

701 Monticello Ave.  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Pastors: Roy & Maren Hange  
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**Advent 4: Worth the wait**  
**December 22, 2019**

## Gathering in God's presence

Preservice Music      The Father's Rose      Mark Hayes  
Call to worship  
Opening Prayer  
Lighting of candle  
Hymns      Of the Father's love begotten      HWB 104  
                 Comfort, comfort, oh my people      HWB 176

## Noticing God's presence

Scripture      Isaiah 7:10-16  
Confession  
Hymn      Prepare the way of the Lord      STS 14  
Scripture      Matthew 1:18-25  
Sermon      What child is this  
Hymn      Lo, how a rose ere blooming      HWB 211

## Responding to God's presence

Sharing of joys and concerns /visitor introductions  
Offering      Praise God      HWB 119  
Hymn      My soul cries out      STS 124  
Benediction

## Today

Sermon:      Maren Hange  
Worship:      Roy Hange  
Songleader:      Linda Patchel  
Preservice:      Linda Patchel

## This Week

Dec 22      Christmas Caroling at MJH      12:30 pm  
Dec 24      Men's Breakfast at Bodo's cancelled.  
Dec 24      Christmas Eve candlelight service      6:30 pm

## Upcoming Events

Dec 29      Gifts for Jesus  
                 *Bring a song, poem, story, or memory to share*  
January 5      Communion Sunday

January 7      BOE      7 pm  
January 12      Fellowship meal  
January 14      Administrative Council      7 pm  
February 2      Annual Alderfer Super Bowl Party  
May 15-17, 2020      Annual Church Retreat

## Announcements

Please email all bulletin announcements to Linda by Thursday evening. Please include the word "Bulletin" in the subject line of the heading.

How about CMC spreading some Christmas cheer at Martha Jefferson Hospital? We are on to sing Christmas carols today from 12:30 until 1-ish. If interested, please see Tim Nissley.

Please consider a donation to **CMC's Brotherhood fund** in your year-end giving. The Brotherhood Fund was established to help CMC members and friends of the congregation with financial needs due to loss of jobs, unexpected medical expenses, or other life events that create a financial need. This year we have been able to assist several persons through the Brotherhood Fund. Everence Sharing Funds will match CMC's gift to provide additional assistance to the recipient.

Please also consider a year-end gift towards Charlottesville Mennonite Church. We are currently behind budget about \$ 4,500 for this fiscal year. In addition, the building fund has a little over \$ 4,000 left for repairs while the house is in need of a new roof at the cost of about \$ 8,000. God loves a cheerful giver.

*Throughout Advent, we light a second Advent wreath on our altar table, with a prayer of blessing for our Christian sisters and brothers in another country. This week's candle is lit for Mennonites in DR Congo.*

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been an area of major Mennonite interest and ministry in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM) dates its first missionaries to 1912, in the West Kasai region.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) first became involved in DR Congo in the 1950s when conscientious objectors were sent as volunteers. In the 1960 aftermath of political independence MCC partnered with others as a channel for relief supplies for various areas where local populations were displaced by political unrest. At the same time, MCC set up Pax and Teachers Abroad Program (TAP) there, and a steady stream of young people (including some now-PVMCers) went to Congo, where they served in various roles.

From 1978 to 2012, Mennonite baptized membership quadrupled, from about 60,000 to about 240,000. The 1,800 congregations are divided among three Mennonite groups. You may view of short video featuring photos of Congolese Mennonites at worship and listen to their worship music here: [youtu.be/Eo6CdGOCsA8](https://youtu.be/Eo6CdGOCsA8).

Political and sectarian violence has been a serious problem for many Mennonite congregations in DR Congo. In early 2017, Michael J. Sharp (EMU alum working for United Nations) was killed in the Kasai region while on a peacemaking mission. That same year, thousands of Mennonites there went into hiding to avoid the violence, holding services in the forests. Mennonite aid to the church is coordinated through joint efforts by Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, Mennonite Mission Network, MCC, and others.

Bercy Mundedi, right, in 2013, became one of the first women ordained by Communauté Mennonite au Congo, at Kalonda Bible Institute where she taught for 10 years and is now director. Mundedi is the first Congolese woman to direct a Mennonite Church of Congo institution.

**Memory verse for December:** *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.* Isaiah 40:28