



Rod Houser <rodhouser232@gmail.com>

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## CMCL— Order of Worship Sunday, October 2

1 message

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**CMCL** <cmcl@communitymennonite.org>  
Reply-To: CMCL <cmcl@communitymennonite.org>  
To: rodhouser232@gmail.com

Sun, Oct 2, 2022 at 7:29 AM

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# Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster

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## CMCL Order of Worship

—October 2, 2022 —

***18:30 a.m. in-person, 11:00 a.m. in-person and Zoom***

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**SANKOFA**  
"Go Back and Get It"

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**Prelude—** *A small cloud at dawn*

**Welcome & Lighting of the Peace Lamp—** Good morning and welcome to Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster. You are welcome here whether this is your first time here or you have been coming here since this church was founded. I don't know about how you feel, but life has felt chaotic these past couple of years. Jan Richardson's words have brought me comfort during the chaos. Please hear these words from her and may they bring some comfort to you as well.

***Blessing in the chaos, by Jan Richardson***

*To all that is chaotic  
in you,  
let there come silence.*

*Let there be  
a calming  
of the clamoring,  
a stilling  
of the voices that  
have laid their claim  
on you,  
that have made their  
home in you,*

*that go with you  
even to the  
holy places  
but will not  
let you rest,  
will not let you  
hear your life  
with wholeness*

*or feel the grace  
that fashioned you.*

*Let what distracts you  
cease.*

*Let what divides you  
cease.*

*Let there come an end  
to what diminishes*

*and demeans,  
and let depart  
all that keeps you  
in its cage.*

*Let there be  
an opening  
into the quiet  
that lies beneath  
the chaos,  
where you find  
the peace  
you did not think  
possible  
and see what shimmers  
within the storm.*

**Gathering Prayer— "Breathe on Me," by Leah Wenger**

*Battered, Broken, Betrayed.  
I stand Before you*

*Between the lines  
Breathe on me Breath of God  
Because I have Betrayed  
My Brother and sister  
By my silence  
Breathe on me Breath of God  
But what is Breath  
when it is stolen  
Humanity Beyond recognition  
Buried in Blood  
Bring us transformation  
Beauty for Brokenness  
Expose me for my blindness  
Breathe on me the breath to see  
Be Brave and Bold  
Beyond what others can see  
So when I can't Breathe  
God Breathe on me  
When I cannot see my Betrayal  
Bring me to the light  
I Beg for the wisdom to Be Better  
Bless me with the strength  
to never stop Becoming  
Beyond the patience to listen  
Bring me into action  
I can't Breathe  
So God, Breathe through me*

**Gathering Hymns—****Children's Time—**

**Offering—** Our offering is a time to acknowledge the tangible ways we each contribute to make the community and the living out of our core values possible. And each Sunday a CMCL musician or group of musicians offers a gift of their time and talent during our prelude and offertory times.

*We long for the time  
when the meek shall inherit the earth  
and all who hunger and thirst after justice  
shall be satisfied,  
and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,  
now is always the time  
when more good can be done  
and we can make a difference.  
May it be so, through the offering of these gifts  
and the offering of our lives. Amen.*

(Source: Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona)

**Offertory—** *What shimmers within the storm*

**Hymn—** *When the storms of life are raging, VT #595*

**Sermon—** “The Myopic Oppressor Will Perpetually Justify Their Injustice,” Kevin Ressler

**Sharing Time—** Please email your prayer requests or reflections this morning to Pastor Leslie at [leslie@communitymennonite.org](mailto:leslie@communitymennonite.org).

*Loving God, hear our prayer.*

**Announcements & Introduction of Visitors—**

**Closing Hymn—** *There's a wild hope in the wind, VT #828*

**Benediction—** by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

***Shake Us From Our Slumber***

*When our eyes do not see the gravity of racial justice,  
Shake us from our slumber and open our eyes, O Lord.  
When out of fear we are frozen into inaction,  
Give us a spirit of bravery, O Lord.  
When we try our best but say the wrong things,  
Give us a spirit of humility, O Lord.  
When the chaos of this dies down,  
Give us a lasting spirit of solidarity, O Lord.  
When it becomes easier to point fingers outwards,  
Help us to examine our own hearts, O Lord.*

*God of truth, in your wisdom, Enlighten Us.  
God of hope in your kindness, Heal Us.*

*Creator of All People, in your generosity, Guide Us.  
Racism breaks your heart,  
break our hearts for what breaks yours, O Lord.  
Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship with one another and  
promised to dwell wherever  
two or three are gathered. In our community, we are many different people;  
we come from many different  
places, have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we may be bold in  
finding the riches of  
inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith.*

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**Worship Leader:** John-Michael Cotignola-Pickens

**Song Leader:** Beth Graybill

**Sermon:** Kevin Ressler

**Prelude & Offertory:** Tim Baum

**Sound:** Michael Eby-Good and Ezra Kauffman

**Zoom:** Stock Weinstock



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CMCL

328 W. Orange St.

Lancaster, PA 17603

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