

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster is an inclusive, progressive, Mennonite/Anabaptist Christian peace church. We are a member congregation of the Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Church USA, and of the Supportive Communities Network. To read our full covenant, core values and statement on LGBTQ inclusion, as well as more information about our congregation and denomination, please visit our website: www.communitymennonite.org/about-us/what-we-believe/

CMCL Vision Prayer

*Through your grace, O God,
form us into a community
called to follow Jesus,
known and loved by you,
nourished throughout our lives by
worship,
relationships
and the biblical story,
open to new voices and new dreams,
committed to one another
in times of celebration and difficulty,
responsive to human need
with justice and compassion.
May your Spirit draw us together into your
new creation.*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge that Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster owns land that was inhabited by the Susquehannock confederacy (also known as the Conestoga) and Lenape people at the time of European contact. We lament our ancestors' complicity in land theft from Indigenous Peoples and how we benefit from a legacy of exploitation and genocide.

We intend for this statement to be a first step in a journey of healing and reconciliation.



HOPE.
PEACE.
JOY.

ADVENT III—JOY

December 11, 2022
328 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

Prelude

O Holy Night by Adolphe Adam

All: **We light a candle for joy. May it light the way.**

Welcome & Call to Worship

For Joy

by Jan Richardson

Worship Leader:
Marcia Towers

You can prepare,
but still
it will come to you
by surprise,

Sermon:
Frank Muse

Song Leader:
Darlis Myer

crossing through your doorway,
calling your name in greeting,
turning like a child
who quickens suddenly
within you.

Children’s Time:
Kirsten Crosbe Blose

Prelude & Offertory:
Alicia Smith
Accompanist:
Marcy Hostetler (1st)
Roger Lentz (2nd)

It will astonish you
how wide your heart
will open in welcome

Sound:

Maren Morgan (1st)
Daryl Snider (2nd)

for the joy
that finds you
so ready
and still so unprepared.

Hymn

Hope is a Candle

VT 211

Zoom

Technician:
Stock Weinstock

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Uncontainable, irrepressible, bubbling up in an explosion of energy. What the weary long for, what children often embody, what makes the Divine smile – joy. It cannot be paid for, but is a priceless treasure. As we hope for your arrival, as we pray for peace in your living, as we wait and watch and wonder how you might reveal yourself to us, God give us joy in your Advent.

All: **We light a candle for joy. May it light the way.**

Joy is not a commodity that can be bought or sold, but lives deep in the human spirit. Help us to hear that truth and believe it. Let go of what our consumer culture says will bring us happiness – money, success, a scramble to the top that leaves us flat. If we have robbed others of what they need in our clamor and quest for more than our fair share, forgive us. Help us hear the call of John the Baptist to turn around and begin again. God of love, we were made in joy. May we live that way.

Fishbowl:

Brenda Sauder
Andre Chubb

Gathering Hymn

Joy to the World

VT 240

Oh Come, Oh Come, Immanuel

VT 210

Children’s Time

Come and See

VT 282

Offering

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy,

And we give with joy.

Joy for all the beauty of the earth;

Joy for the mysterious sense of Emmanuel, God with us.

Receive these generous offerings,

And use them to spread your joy in our world.

Amen.

Offertory

Gesu Bambino by Pietro Yon

Scripture Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Sermon

Hymn of Response

My Life Flows On

VT 605

Communion

Sharing Time & Prayer

Announcements & Introductions

Sending Hymn

Silent Night

Verse 1

Benediction

As you go out, go with the light of joy. In moments of delight, in moments of frustration; in moments of beauty, in moments of fear; in moments of enthusiasm and moments of exhaustion; may the joy of Christ be ever-present, grounding you in the deep love of God—our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen.