

Who We Are

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.

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

328 West Orange St
Lancaster, PA 17603

March 5, 2023

Lent II

seeking: *How do we begin again?*

Worship Leader: **Lighting of the Peace Lamp** *Meditations of the Heart*, adapt.
Deb Napolitan Let us pray: by Howard Thurman

Song Leader: Open unto me, light for my darkness
Marty Kelley Open unto me, courage for my fear
Open unto me, hope for my despair
Open unto me, peace for my turmoil

Sermon: Open unto me, joy for my sorrow
Susan Gascho- Open unto me, strength for my weakness
Cooke Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion

Children's Time: Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins
Darrell Yoder Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness
Open unto me, love for my hates

Prelude & Offertory: Open unto me, Thy Self for myself
Rhea Miller, Divine Presence, open unto me
Dean Clemmer,
Susan Gascho-Cooke

Prelude *Hallelujah*, by HAIM
Dean Clemmer, Susan Gascho-Cooke, Rhea Miller

Sound:
Michael Eby-Good(1st)
Ezra Kauffman (2nd)

Welcome/Call to Worship *The Walk*, by Ranier Maria Rilke

Zoom Technician: My eyes already touch the sunlit hill,
going far ahead of the road I have begun,
And so we are grasped by what we cannot grasp;
it has an inner light, even from a distance-

Greeter: and changes us, even if we do not reach it,
Mary Lou into something else, which, hardly sensing it,
Weaver Houser(1st), we already are
Kirsten Hoover (2nd)

Ushers: A gesture waves us on
answering our own wave...
Lorman Laird, but what we feel is the wind in our faces.
Jermel Laird (1st)

Gathering Songs *Begin Again* (see insert)
Pauline Zimmerman, VT 737 *Breathe on me, Breath of God*
Marian Good (2nd)

Children's Time (second service)

Reading (see insert) *Map of the Journey in Progress*

Silence

Offering Prayer

Offertory *Land of the Seeking*, by Spencer LaJove

Scripture

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it's not possible to see God's kingdom." Nicodemus asked, "How is it possible for an adult to be born? It's impossible to enter the mother's womb for a second time and be born, isn't it?" Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said, "How are these things possible?" Jesus answered, "You are a teacher of Israel and you don't know these things? I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don't receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Sermon

VT 553

Song of Response

How Many Times We Start Again

Sharing Time/Prayer

Announcements

Sending Song

VT 368, *Spirit of Life*

Benediction

God speaks to each of us as we are made,
then walks with us silently out of the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:

You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.

Embody me.

Flare up like a flame
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.

Just keep going. No feeling is final.

Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.

You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.