

## 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/](http://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.*

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YOU'LL TREAD ON THE YOUNG LION AS EASILY AS ONE DOES A COBRA; YOU'LL TRAMPLE DOWN BOTH LION AND SERPENT.



6.4.23  
COMMUNITY MENNONITE  
CHURCH OF LANCASTER  
328 W. Orange St. Lancaster, PA 17603

**Prelude**

*You Raise Me Up* by Rolf Lovland & Brandan Graham

**Worship Leader: Lighting of the Peace Candle**

Verna Miller

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

**Sermon:**  
Susan Gascho-Cooke

**Song Leader:**  
Beth Graybill

Leader: Give thanks; God understands our wrestling with Scripture.

All: God desires honest seeking to live this journey of faith.

**Musician:**  
Christy Heatwole Kauffman

Leader: Come, let us worship.

All: Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

**Children's Time:**  
Marilou Adams

Leader: For the church universal,  
and for this congregation.

All: thank you, God.

**Prelude & Offertory:**  
Alicia Smith

Leader: For this place in which we gather  
for praise and prayer, witness, and service.

**Sound:**  
Michael Eby-Good

All: We have gathered:  
to delight in God's presence,  
to experience God's healing,  
to receive God's grace  
to celebrate the Everlasting Love in  
"whom we live and move and have our being."

**Zoom Technician:**  
Stock Weinstock

**Greeter:**  
Carolyn Dries

**Gathering Songs**

*We Sing to You, O God* VT 80

**Ushers:**  
Marian Good,  
Luke Good,  
Sherry Groff

*What a Fellowship, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* VT 160

**Children's Time** *Come and See* VT 282

**Offering Prayer**

**Offertory**

*Blest Be The Lord* by Dan Schutte, S.J.

**\*Note from the composer:**

*This song, which is based on Psalm 91, is a prayer of trust and confidence in the saving power of God. Though evil really does exist and surrounds our lives, we believe that it shall not be victorious over us because our God is merciful. This song has a joyful spirit.*

**Blest Be The Lord**

**Refrain**

*Blest be the Lord; blest be the Lord,  
The God of mercy, the God who saves.  
I shall not fear the dark of night,  
Nor the arrow that flies by day.*

**Verse 1**

He will release me from the nets of all my foes.  
He will protect me from their wicked hands.  
Beneath the shadow of His wings, I will rejoice  
To find a dwelling place secure.

**Repeat Refrain**

**Verse 2**

I need not shrink before the terrors of the night,  
Nor stand alone before the light of day.  
No harm shall come to me, no arrow strike me down,  
No evil settle in my soul.

**Repeat Refrain**

**Verse 3**

Although a thousand strong have fallen at my side,  
I'll not be shaken with the Lord at hand.  
His faithful love is all the armor that I need  
To wage my battle with the foe.

**Repeat Refrain**

**Scripture (see insert)**

Psalm 91, VT 641, "And I Will Raise You Up"

*\*The congregation will join Beth in singing the refrain. The congregation will join in reading verses 14-16.\**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of Response**

*Everlasting God, On You I Call* VT 630

**Sharing Time & Prayer**

**Announcements & Introduction of Visitors**

**Benediction Prayer**

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

Question boldly,  
as a beloved child of God.

Live in peace,  
under the shelter of God's "wings and feathers."

Journey in faith,  
knowing God welcomes us to wrestle with understandings of Scripture.

Thanks be to God. Go in peace.