

## 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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# SAVING OUR WORLD

*through circles of kindness*



10.22.23

328 West Orange St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603

**COMMUNITY MENNONITE  
CHURCH OF LANCASTER**

**Worship Leader:**  
Susan Gascho-Cooke

**Prelude**

*Theme and Variation 1* by Adolphus Hailstork  
from *Draw the Sacred Circle Closer*

**Reflection:**

Victoria Valentine,  
Chelsea Franciscus,  
Marty Kelley,  
Maryann Robins,  
Emerson Sampaio

**Lighting of the Peace Candle**

Holy One, true Light, you create light eternal, spreading it far and wide...  
As the flames flicker, set our hearts on fire with love for you.  
In this circle of light, may we always be one with You, encircled by your loving presence.  
May these rays of light shine through us, and on us and the whole world, reflecting your glory, keeping our hearts beating, keeping your dreams for us alive. Amen

**Song Leader:**  
Beth Graybill

**Children's Time:**  
Emerson Sampaio

**Welcome & Call to Worship**

VT 863

Source of all hope and holiness,  
we gather today to be church.  
Bless those who are absent,  
but not from our hearts.  
Bless those who are distant,  
but not from our love.  
Bless each of us here,  
that we may choose justice by your Spirit,  
draw kindness from the well of your mercy,  
and walk humbly in your path, O God.

**Prelude & Offertory:**  
Christy Kauffman,  
Roger Lentz

**Sound:**  
Ezra Kauffman

**Zoom Technician:**  
Steve Walter

**Gathering Songs**

**Greeter:**  
Diane Umble

*Here in this Place*  
*Heleluyah*

VT 10

VT 85

**Ushers:**  
Pauline Zimmerman  
Deb Hall

**Children's Time**

*Come and See*

VT 282

**Offering**

excerpt from *Dogfish*  
by Mary Oliver

**Fishbowl Volunteers:**  
Lindsey Deininger  
Ashley Miller

You don't want to hear the story  
of my life, and anyway  
I don't want to tell it, I want to listen  
to the enormous waterfalls of the sun.

**Environment Design:**  
Zita Angelo  
& Renee King

And anyway it's the same old story -- --  
a few people just trying,  
one way or another,  
to survive.

Mostly, I want to be kind.  
And nobody, of course, is kind,  
or mean,  
for a simple reason.

And nobody gets out of it, having to  
swim through the fires to stay in  
this world.

**Offertory**

*Prayer for Viola and Piano*

(a prayer for hope and healing through the powerful language of music)

**Scripture -Colossians 3:12**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

**Reflection**

Saving our World (SOW)

**Song of Response**

*Honja Soririoneun (With My Voice Alone)*

VT 800

**Announcements & Introduction of Visitors**

**Closing Song**

**Benediction**

excerpt from *Evidence*,  
by Mary Oliver

Where do I live? If I had no address, as many people do not, I could nevertheless say that I lived in the same town as the lilies of the field, and the still waters.  
Spring, and all through the neighborhood now there are strong men tending flowers.

Beauty without purpose is beauty without virtue. But all beautiful things, inherently, have this function - to excite the viewers toward sublime thought. Glory to the world, that good teacher.

Among the swans there is none called the least, or the greatest.

I believe in kindness. Also in mischief. Also in singing, especially when singing is not necessarily prescribed.

As for the body, it is solid and strong and curious and full of detail; it wants to polish itself; it wants to love another body; it is the only vessel in the world that can hold, in a mix of power and sweetness: words, song, gesture, passion, ideas, ingenuity, devotion, merriment, vanity, and virtue.

Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable.