

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

—∞—
12.03.23



Worship Leader: Pauline Zimmerman	Prelude <i>We Come</i>	VT 225 Kim Thiesen 2003 in <i>The Light shines: Songs and Carols for Christmas</i> (used with permission)
Offertory: Daryl Snider	Welcome & Call to Worship	
Sermon: Susan Gascho-Cooke	Gathering Song <i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	VT 218
Song Leader: Marcy Hostetler	Children's Time <i>Come and See</i>	VT 282
Scripture Readers: Beth Crosby, Deb Hall	Lighting of the Candle of Hope	
	One: How does a weary world hope?	
Children's Time: Jonathan Sauder	All: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.	
Sound: Michael Eby-Good	One: By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.	
Zoom Technician: Drew Brubaker	All: By insisting that small acts can make a difference.	
	One: There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.	
Greeter: Mary Lou Weaver Houser	All: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.	
Ushers: Ken Beam, Jim Spicher	Song <i>Light Dawns on a Weary World</i>	VT 205
Fishbowl Volunteers: Lori Bergey, Ashley Miller	Offering Prayer	
	Offertory <i>Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silent/O come, Immanuel</i>	
Environment Design: Zita Angelo & Renee King	Scripture - Luke 1 : 1-23	
	Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.	
	In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord.	

But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

Sermon

Song of Response

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

VT 536

Communion

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

VT 778

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

VT 801

Sharing Time

Announcements & Introduction of Visitors

Benediction

Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
you go into a weary world—
so speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do.
Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember
that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God's beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it.
Amen.