

## 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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COMMUNITY  
MENNONITE  
CHURCH OF  
LANCASTER



12.31.23

328 West Orange St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603



How does a  
weary world  
rejoice? *We root ourselves  
in ritual*

## Prelude

**Worship Leader:**  
André Chubb

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

VT 247

## Welcome & Call to Worship

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

**Every month we break bread.**

Every week we gather for worship.

**Every day we count our blessings.**

Every minute God is near.

**Yes, every minute God is near.**

These are the rituals of our faith.

**Let us worship Holy God.**

## *Ritual - We come together before God*

### Gathering Songs

*To Us A Child of Hope is Born*

VT 259

*Love Has Come*

VT 258

### Prayer of Confession:

**God of rhythms, we confess:**

**our faith would not be what it is without rituals.**

**Unlike you, we depend on bread and water.**

**We have to return to this space again and again  
to hear old, familiar stories.**

**For if we stopped,**

**we know it would not take long before we lost our way.**

**Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us  
ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto.**

**With grateful and humble hearts we pray,  
amen.**

### Children's Time

*Come and See*

VT 282

## *Ritual - We live with intention*

### Scripture - Luke 2:21-40

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

## *Ritual - We see Christ in others*

## Sharing Time

## Announcements & Introduction of Visitors

### Closing Song

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

VT 245, vs. 4

### Benediction

How does a weary world rejoice?  
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.