

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.

DISMANTLING RACISM STATEMENT

The predominantly white CMCL community acknowledges a history of unearned privilege and opportunity that occurred at the expense of those of color. We commit to move beyond mere words to tangible reparative acts, increasingly reflected in our annual church budget and through individual contributions. We see this lifelong process of learning and action to be transformational yet acknowledge this is only a step.



COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

328 West Orange Street Lancaster, PA 17603

JULY 7, 2024

Worship Leader:
Susan Gascho-Cooke

Prelude

Sermon:
Lydia Wylie-Kellerman

Lighting of the Peace Candle

To be of the Earth is to know:
the restlessness of being a seed,
the darkness of being planted,
the struggle toward the light,
the pain of growth into the light,
the joy of bursting and bearing fruit,
the love of being food for someone,
the scattering of your seeds,
the decay of the seasons,
the mystery of death,
and the miracle of birth.

from *Earth Prayers*,
by John Soos

Prelude & Offertory:
Emerson Sampaio

Song Leader:
Beth Graybill

Children's Time:
Lydia Wylie-Kellerman

Sound:
Michael Eby-Good

Welcome & Call to Worship

How precious, how fragile, how short is life!

from enfleshed.com

Zoom Technician:
Steve Walter

Our lives are but a breath.

The Divine brings us into being,
weaves our lives together,
and ushers us into eternal rest.

Greeters:
Jean Sensenig
Marty Kelley

Blessed are the Sacred rhythms of life
and holy are these tasks:

Ushers:
Linford Good
Beth Crosby

to be alive,

to pay attention,

to honor the fleeting with awe and care.

Fishbowl Volunteers:
Lori Bergey,
Christy Heatwole-
Kauffman

Gathering Hymns

For the Beauty of the Earth
Crashing Waters at Creation

VT 120

VT 441

Children's Time

Come and See

VT 282

Environment Design:
Renee King
Zita Angelo
Crescentia Volz
Pauline Zimmerman
Brenda Sauder
Gwen Reed Blankenship

Offering Prayer

Offertory

Scripture — Mark 1: 1-12 CEB

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's
Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

*Look, I am sending my messenger before you.
He will prepare your way,
a voice shouting in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight."*

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness.

Sermon

Lydia Wylie-Kellermann is a writer, editor, activist, and mother. She is director of Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center. She is the author of *This Sweet Earth: Walking with our Children in the Age of Climate Collapse* and editor of *The Sandbox Revolution: Raising Kids for a Just World*. Lydia's writing has appeared in *Geez* magazine, *Sojourners*, *Red Letter Christians*, and various Catholic Worker papers, and she is a contributor to multiple books.

Hymn of Response

God Who Touches Earth with Beauty

VT 550

Sharing Time & Prayer

Loving God...hear our prayers

Announcements & Introduction of Visitors

Closing Hymn

Wade in the Water

VT 454

Benediction

May God strengthen your love
for all life in your circle of influence and care
and grant you the capacity to grow in love
for all that you do not love
but is in need of your tending, anyway.
The Eye of our Beholder sees beauty in each of us
and all of this.

Be awake this week to Love's beckoning, nudging, inviting, calling
to grow in love and common purpose
for the thriving and flourishing of all.