

## 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.*

## 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.*



**WORDS**  
FOR THE BEGINNING  
— WE CAN'T GO ALONE —  
ADVENT: WEEK TWO

12.08 COMMUNITY MENNONITE  
CHURCH OF LANCASTER

2024 328 WEST ORANGE ST.  
LANCASTER, PA 17603

**Worship Leader:** Ron Zook  
**Prelude**  
*O Come O Come Emmanuel, I Wonder as I Wander*

**Prelude & Offertory:** Stock Weinstock  
**Welcome**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles:** Maren Morgan  
Aiden Nugent  
**Welcome & Call to Worship**  
In a world that is lonely,  
**we will save a seat for you.**  
In a world that is anxious,  
**we will light candles against the gloom.**  
In a world that is weary,  
**we will sing songs of joy and truth.**  
I am not alone.  
**We are not alone.**  
For here in this place, God is weaving us together.  
**Light the candles! Sing with joy!**  
**We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.**

**Children's Time:** Judy Zook  
**Gathering Songs**  
*Comfort, Comfort, O My People* VT 212  
*To Be Known* see insert

**Sound:** Daryl Snider  
**Children's Time** *Come and See* VT 282

**Zoom Technician:** Stock Weinstock  
**Offering Prayer & Offertory**  
*Greensleeves (What Child is This)*

**Greeters:** Pauline Zimmerman  
Larry Groff  
**Scripture —**  
**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 CEB**  
Two are better than one because they have a good return for their hard work. If either should fall, one can pick up the other. But how miserable are those who fall and don't have a companion to help them up! Also, if two lie down together, they can stay warm. But how can anyone stay warm alone? Also, one can be overpowered, but two together can put up resistance. A three-ply cord doesn't easily snap.

**Ushers:** Phil Kreider  
Jean Sensenig

**Fishbowl Volunteers:** Lori Bergey  
Jean Sensenig  
**Ruth 1 CEB**  
During the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. A man with his wife and two sons went from Bethlehem of Judah to dwell in the territory of Moab. The name of that man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the territory of Moab and settled there. But Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died. Then only she was left, along with her two sons. They took wives for themselves, Moabite women; the name of the first was Orpah and the name of the second was Ruth. And they lived there for about ten years. But both of the sons, Mahlon and Chilion, also died. Only the woman was left, without her two children and without her husband. Then she arose along with her daughters-in-law to return from the field of Moab, because while in the territory of Moab she had heard that the Lord had paid attention to his people by providing food for them. She left the place where she had been, and her two

**Environment Design:** Alicia Smith  
Crescentia Volz

**Cover Image:** "Binding Braids" by Nicolette Peñaranda  
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daughters-in-law went with her. They went along the road to return to the land of Judah. Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Go, turn back, each of you to the household of your mother. May the Lord deal faithfully with you, just as you have done with the dead and with me. May the Lord provide for you so that you may find security, each woman in the household of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. But they replied to her, "No, instead we will return with you, to your people." Naomi replied, "Turn back, my daughters. Why would you go with me? Will there again be sons in my womb, that they would be husbands for you? Turn back, my daughters. Go. I am too old for a husband. If I were to say that I have hope, even if I had a husband tonight, and even more, if I were to bear sons— would you wait until they grew up? Would you refrain from having a husband? No, my daughters. This is more bitter for me than for you, since the Lord's will has come out against me." Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth stayed with her. Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is returning to her people and to her gods. Turn back after your sister-in-law." But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord do this to me and more so if even death separates me from you." When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her about it. So both of them went along until they arrived at Bethlehem. When they arrived at Bethlehem, the whole town was excited on account of them, and the women of the town asked, "Can this be Naomi?" She replied to them, "Don't call me Naomi, but call me Mara, for the Almighty has made me very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has returned me empty. Why would you call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has deemed me guilty?" Thus Naomi returned. And Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, returned with her from the territory of Moab. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

### Sermon

### Song of Response

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

VT 778

### Sharing Time & Prayer

*Loving God...hear our prayers*

### Announcements & Introduction of Visitors

### Closing Song

*As You Go Out from Here*

VT 841

### Benediction

As you leave this place,  
may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.  
May you have the courage to hold onto hope,  
the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,  
and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.  
For in a world full of dead ends,  
Advent invites us to begin again.  
So start here.  
Start now.  
Start with love and begin again.  
In the name of Christ,  
our new beginning,  
go in peace.