

## 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.*



COMMUNITY MENNONITE  
CHURCH OF LANCASTER

328 WEST ORANGE ST.  
LANCASTER, PA 17603

12.29  
2024

**Worship Leader:**  
Susan Gascho-Cooke

**Prelude**  
*Dark of Winter/Canon de Noel*

by: Denham/Pachelbel  
arr. Martin

**Prelude & Offertory:**  
Alicia Smith:

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Song Leader:**  
Rod Houser

**Welcome & Call to Worship**

Don't Hesitate  
If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy,  
don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty  
of lives and whole towns destroyed or about  
to be. We are not wise, and not very often  
kind. And much can never be redeemed.  
Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this  
is its way of fighting back, that sometimes  
something happens better than all the riches  
or power in the world. It could be anything,  
but very likely you notice it in the instant  
when love begins. Anyway, that's often the  
case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid  
of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.

**Children's Time:**  
Kay Reist

**Sound:**  
Cody Litwiller

**Zoom Technician:**  
Steve Walter

**Greeters:**  
Joanne Leatherman  
Ken Beam

**Ushers:**  
Fern Clemmer  
Deb Hall

**God is in our joy.**  
God is in this room.

**We have reason to celebrate.**  
We have a reason to sing.

**Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.**

**Fishbowl Volunteers:**  
Maren Morgan  
Denise Cope

**Gathering Song**  
*Joy to the World*

**Environment Design:**  
Alicia Smith  
Crescentia Volz

**Scripture — Luke 2:10, Isaiah 9:2-3a**  
The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—  
wonderful, joyous news for all people.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.  
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.  
You have made the nation great;  
you have increased its joy.  
They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as those who divide plunder rejoice.

**Cover Image:**  
"Let All Creation Dance"  
by Lyle Gwynn Garrity  
| A Sanctified Art LLC |  
sanctifiedart.org

**Children's Time**

*Come and See*

VT 282

**Loving God,  
You love when we laugh.  
You love when we play.  
You love when we share.  
Remind us that your good news  
is for all people.  
Amen.**

**Offering Prayer**

*You are invited to take 1-3 colored hexagons and write down: "I thank God for \_\_\_\_" or  
"God, bring joy to \_\_\_\_\_"*

**Offertory**

*Medley of Christmas Carols*

Traditional

**Prayer Loom**

*You will be invited to bring forward your written prayers and attach to the prayer loom*

**Communion**

"In collective longing for a taste of your Kingdom on earth, we join together in echoing  
the prayer of Jesus:"

*Our loving God, in whom is heaven ...*

**Prayer to Close Communion**

VT 946

**Sharing Time & Prayer**

*Loving God...hear our prayers*

**Announcements & Introduction of Visitors**

**Closing Song**

**Benediction**

Family of faith,  
in a hurting and lonely world,  
in a battered and bruised society, there is good news:  
Jesus Christ is born!  
So as you leave this place,  
may you be quick to laugh and quick to hope.  
May you look for reasons to be grateful.  
May you not hesitate to join in the dance,  
or join in the song.  
May you extend a hand to your neighbor,  
and find God in every moment of joy.  
For unto you a child is born.  
That is good news!  
So go in peace trusting in that promise.  
Go in peace, and go with joy.  
Amen.