

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.

Christmas Eve Evening Service

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

December 24, 2023

328 West Orange St. Lancaster, PA 17603

Worship Leader:

Faith Cowell

Prelude*O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

VT 210 vs. 2, 6 & 7

Joy to the World

VT 240

Reflection:

Mitch Nugent

Welcome & Call to Worship*A Sanctified Art*

There is room for you here.

If you're weary and worn,
or hopeful and patient.**Special Music:**

Daryl Snider

**If you're tired and lost,
or wrapped up in hope.****Sound:**

Kyle Bomgardner

If you're new to this place,
or have been here before.**Zoom Technician:**

Steve Walter

Come in, come in.**There is room for you here.****Greeter:**

Marian Good

The angels are singing,

"Be not afraid."

The angels are singing,

"Good news and great joy!"**Ushers:**Larry Groff,
Carolyn Weaver

So come in, come in!

There is room for us here.**Lighting of the Advent Candles***Hope is a Candle*

VT 211 vs. 1 - 4

Scripture - Luke 2: 1-20 Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn*Away in A Manger*

VT 257

Reflection

Mitch Nugent

Song*Sky Full of Stars*

by Coldplay

Lighting the Christ Candle*Hope is a Candle*

VT 211 vs. 5

Candle Lighting Response

How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, and spread joy?

How does a weary world make its way through our bleakest night?

We do all these things with the light of Love illuminating the path.

For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.

Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

In Christ, we are not alone.

Love has drawn close. Rejoice!

For God loves this weary world. Amen.**Song - This Little Light of Mine**

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! (repeat 3x)

Let it shine, let it shine, to show my love!

Verse 2: Even in my home ...

Verse 3: In my neighborhood ...

Verse 4: Everywhere I go

Amen...

Hymn*Silent Night*

VT 244

Benediction

Go forth from this place
receiving the gift of light,
and being light to a weary world.