

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/

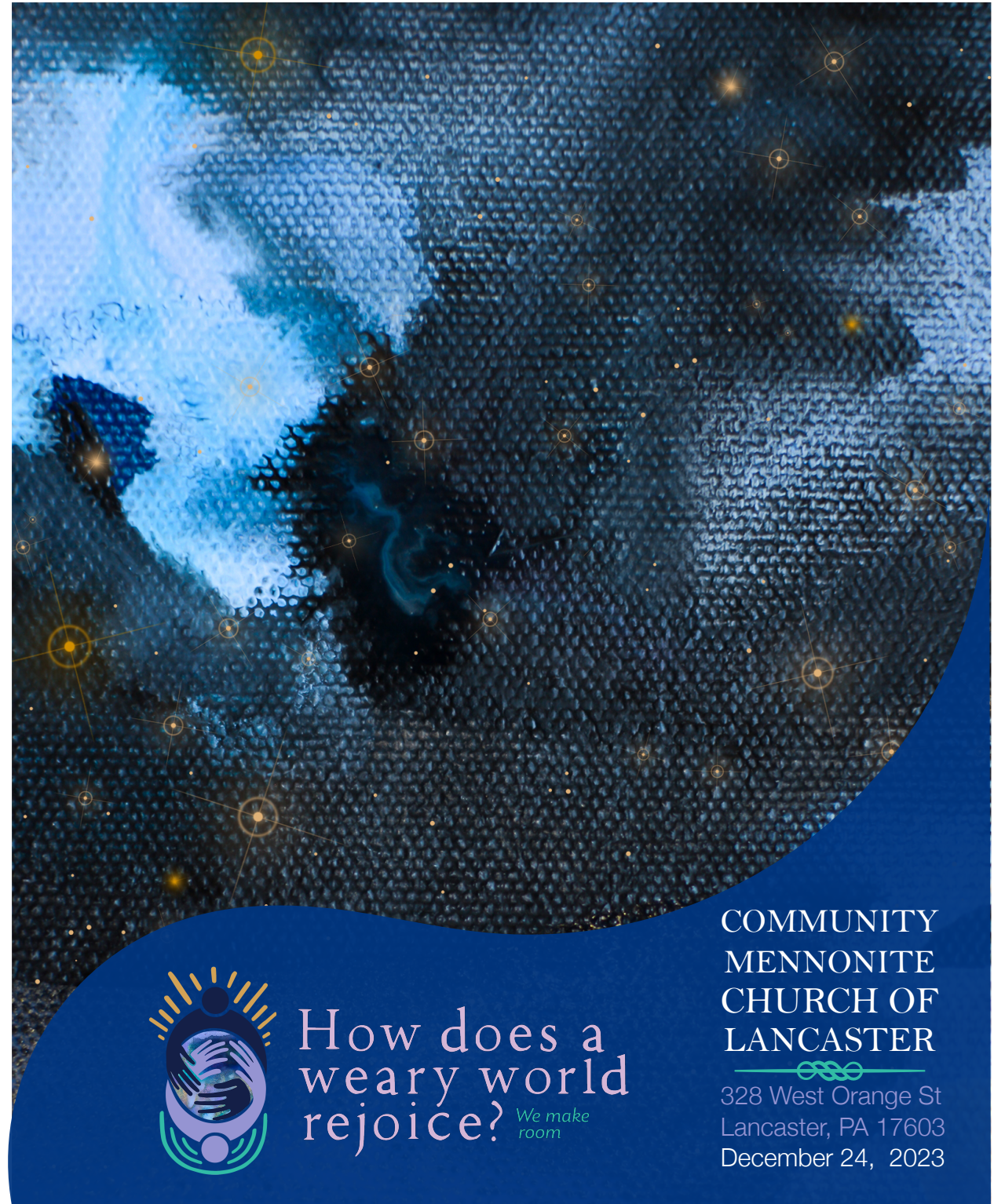
CMCL Vision Prayer

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.



How does a
weary world
rejoice? We make
room

COMMUNITY
MENNONITE
CHURCH OF
LANCASTER

328 West Orange St
Lancaster, PA 17603
December 24, 2023

Prelude

Worship Leader:

Diane Umble

Welcome & Call to Worship

Loving Christ,
Scripture tells us that you were placed in a manger
among livestock and hay
because there was no place in the guest room.

Children's Time:

Diane Umble

The space was full, and yet— your parents made room.

Scripture tells us that shepherds arrived
from the fields beyond town.

Scripture Readers:

Sauder Family

The space was full, and yet— they made room.

Scripture tells us that Mary pondered
what the shepherds had to say.

Her heart was full, and yet— she made room.

Too often we assume there is no more room.
Too often we choose exclusion and close off our hearts.

Teach us how to make room for one another.

Teach us how to make room for you.

Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love,
for we do not want to build hostility here.

We want to build your promised day.

Guide us forward.

With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

Gathering Songs

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

VT 216

Advent 4

see insert

Children's Time - Candle Lighting Liturgy

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

How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

We do all these things with God's help.

A child is born in Bethlehem.

Christ draws near.

We are not alone.

God is near.

Love is drawn close.

Rejoice! For God loves this weary world.

Amen

Offering Prayer and Offertory

Scripture- Luke 2:1-20

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.

Sermon

Song of Response

Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee

VT 215

Sharing Time

Announcements and Introduction of Visitors

Closing Song

Hark! the Glad Sound!

VT 217

Benediction

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.