

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

328 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

December 2, 2018

Worship Leader—Leslie Homer-Cattell

Sermon— Susan Gascho-Cooke

Song Leader—Beth Graybill

Prelude/Offertory— Christy Heatwole Kauffman & Betsy Swartz

Sound Technician— Daryl Snider

Greeter— Carol Spicher

Ushers— Larry Groff, Rod Houser, Andre Chubb

Child Care—Eric Hoover, Deb Kraybill; Helpers—Mara & Raewyn Kraybill

Environment: December

“Stages of Life- Wise Ones on the Journey”

We travel with the guidance of the Moravian star, as we join the “wise ones on the journey this month.” Be ye a Red- Twig Dogwood, a Yellow-Twig Dogwood, a Curly Willow Tree Branch, a Bittersweet Vine, or an Osage Orange Fruit, you have gifts to bear. May these visuals journey with you as we look at the Christmas story through the lens of the various characters in their various phases of life. (Thanks to Scott Weaver for the various branches)

The Environment Committee: *Gwen Eberly, Rod Shumaker, Dale Martin, Nancy Baum and Lynn Sommer*

CHURCH INFORMATION

Contact the church office staff at (717) 392-7567 or cmcl@communitymennonite.org.

Worship service: 9:30 a.m. **Christian Ed:** 11:00 a.m.

Bulletin Announcements: bulletin@communitymennonite.org by 4 p.m., Wednesday

Midweek Announcements: bulletin@communitymennonite.org by 4 p.m., Tuesday

Administrative Pastor:

Leslie Homer-Cattell, (leslie@communitymennonite.org), Mon- Thurs

Congregational Care Pastor:

Susan Gascho-Cooke (susan@communitymennonite.org), Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

Associate Pastor of Youth:

Amanda Stoltzfus (Amanda@communitymennonite.org), Tues and Thu

Associate Pastor of Children and Families:

Malinda Clatterbuck (Malinda@communitymennonite.org), Mon and Thu

Pastoral Team:

Deb Napolitan, Monte Garber, Darrell Yoder, Lisa Roth-Walter and Naomi Paine

Office staff: Sallie McCann Tupper (Sallie@communitymennonite.org), Mon- Fri

Small groups: Church office.

Childcare Coordinators: Julie Bushong (jul.and.tyler@gmail.com), Lindsey Deininger (lindsey.garber@gmail.com)

CD recordings of past services available upon request to the church office. Audio and text files of sermons are found on CMCL website or through your favorite podcast app.

To join our closed Facebook Page search for Parrot Nation and request to join.



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Advent 2018 — Wise Ones on the Journey

This December, we are fellow travelers with one another and the Wise Ones of old — making our way once again to the story of Christmas and God-with-us. We are all seekers and we are all bearers of gifts. The answers may be different in our various stages and phases of life, but the questions are much the same:

What are you seeking?

Where are you looking for guidance?

With whom are you traveling?

What gifts do you bring?

What does God-with-us look like for you right now?

What new thing are you being asked to make room for in your life?

Prelude *Allegro* (by W.A. Mozart) Christy Kauffman & Betsy Swartz

Welcome & Call to Worship

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust.

Make us to know your ways, O LORD.

Teach us your paths.

Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation;
for you we wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

Good and upright is the LORD.

God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Adapted from Psalm 25:1-10

Gathering Hymn *As with gladness men of old* HWB #218

Advent Wreath Reading & Candle-lighting

Amanda Stoltzfus, Ryan Trainor & Darrell Yoder

Hymn to Bless this Advent Journey *Bless now, O God, our journey* insert

Scripture Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they

saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Children's Time Malinda Harnish Clatterbuck

Come and see

HWB #20

We value children's participation in worship. This is a sacred time for children and adults alike. Let us listen and see with the eyes and ears of a child.

Offertory/Offering *Adagio* (by W.A. Mozart)

Christy Kauffman & Betsy Swartz

Sermon "The Night Journey" Susan Gascho-Cooke

Hymn of Response *Will you let me be your servant* HWB # 307

Communion

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.

Sharing Time & Prayer

Where do you sense God moving among us? This is a time to respond to the scripture, music, and message of the morning, and to share joys and concerns from your lives and the greater world.

Announcements and Introduction of Visitors

Benediction

*ALL are welcome for hot drinks and fellowship in the Parrot Gallery
downstairs following the worship service.*

*Visitors and new attenders, we invite you to fill out the visitor forms
in the back of the blue hymnal. Feel free to drop them in the offering basket,
or hand them to an usher as you leave the service this morning.*