

Worship Leader— Susan Gascho-Cooke
Sermon— Leslie Homer-Cattell
Song Leader— Ron Umble
Prelude/Offertory— Kim van Donk, Christy Kauffman & Stock Weinstock
Sound Technician— Michael & Aaron Eby-Good
Greeter— Janet Lind
Ushers— Dean Brubaker, Linda Berger, Jean Sensenig
Child Care—Brenda Sauder, Rod Houser; Helper—Maia Shenk

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

328 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

December 9, 2018

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.



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 *Rondeau* (by Jean Joseph Mouret)
Kim van Donk, Christy Kauffman, Stock Weinstock

Call to Worship HWB #661

Advent Wreath Reading & Candle-lighting
Will you let me be your servant HWB #307 vs. 2-5

Gathering Hymn *O come, O come, Immanuel* HWB #172

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.

Offering Prayer HWB #749

Offertory/Offering *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* (by J.S. Bach)
Kim van Donk, Christy Kauffman, Stock Weinstock

Scripture Luke 1:5-24

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so?

For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

Sermon "Peril and Promise: An Open Door" Leslie Homer-Cattell

Hymn of Response *Comfort, comfort, O my people* HWB #176

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

May all that is unforgiven in you
Be released.

May your fears yield
Their deepest tranquilities.

May all that is unloved in you
Blossom into a future
Graced with love.

(To Come Home To Yourself, John Donohue)

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.