

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

328 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

December 16, 2018

Worship Leader— Pam Brubaker

Sermon— Susan Gascho-Cooke

Song Leader— Louise Ranck

Prelude/Offertory—Christmas Choir: Rebecca Boyer, Beth Crosby, Luke Good, Beth Graybill, Ellen Kanagy, John Kanagy, Marty Kelley, Laurel Martin, Audrey Patterson, Marichelle Roque-Lutz, Anne Sensenig, Carol Spicher, Dale Umble, Diane Umble, Ron Umble, Ruth Umble, Stock Weinstock; accompanied by Roger Lentz (piano) and Sonny Ditzler (drums)

Sound Technician— Monte Garber

Greeter—Lois Lehman

Ushers— John Kanagy, David Lutz, Carolyn Weaver, Marian Good

Child Care—Addie Bird, John Thomas; Helper— Dulce Shenk-Zeager

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

Christmas Choir

Songs at the Stable (arranged by Alice Parker, from Mennonite Singing School Book)
Holy child within the manger (by Marty Haugen), Solo: Ellen Kanagy

Welcome & Call to Worship

God, We come seeking your wisdom and light.
We come at different stages, with gifts and struggles.
We come through unfamiliar territory to places that feel foreign.
Remind us of Mary and Joseph,
ordinary people living in a country
under the boot of an oppressive regime,
who believed in your salvation,
holding on to hope.
We hold on to you, believing in your ability
to be born again even in times like these.
When we see darkness around us,
keep our eyes fixed on the places of light in our lives.
Guide us with your wisdom to your healing light.
Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Carol Penner

Advent Wreath Reading & Candle-lighting

Julie Denlinger Bushong, John-Michael Contignola-Pickens, Taylor Luckenbill
Will you let me be your servant HWB #307 vs. 2-5

Gathering Hymns

People look east insert
Come thou long expected Jesus HWB #178

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

Offertory/Offering *African Noel* (arranged by André J. Thomas)

Christmas Choir

Scripture Luke 1:26-38 Caitlyn Laubach
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered

what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sermon

Susan Gascho-Cooke

Hymn of Response

We are people on a journey STJ #8

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

As we leave this holy place, may we have eyes to see the light that you continue to send. Teach us how to illuminate that light in the world. Amen.

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.