

Worship Leader— Leslie Homer-Cattell
Sermon— Urbane Peachey and Frank Muse
Song Leader— Anne Sensenig
Prelude/Offertory— Brenda Sauder, Faith Sauder, Louise Ranck
Sound Technician— Cody Litwiller
Greeter— Jean Sensenig
Ushers— Carolyn Weaver, Rod Houser, Phil Kreider
Child Care— Lindsey Deininger, Christy Heatwole-Kauffman; Helper—
Hannah Clatterbuck

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.

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

328 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603
December 30, 2018



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 *Still, Still, Still* (Traditional Austrian Carol)
Faith Sauder

Call to Worship

After Jesus was born, wise ones came, asking:

“Where is the child? We observed the star and have come to pay homage.”

This child frightened King Herod because of the prophet’s words:

“For from you, Bethlehem, shall come a ruler who is to shepherd God’s people.”

The wise ones set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star 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.

Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother.

They knelt down and paid him homage. Opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

(Adapted from Matthew 2:1-11)

Advent Wreath Reading & Candle-lighting

Will you let me be your servant HWB #307 vs. 2, 3, 4, 2
Joseph Gascho, Mary Lou Weaver Houser, Jay Martin

Gathering Hymn *Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem* STS #32 v. 1 & 2

Children's Time Amanda Stoltzfus

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 *Evening Prayer* (by Humperdinck, from Hansel & Gretel)
Brenda & Faith Sauder

Hymn *Love came down at Christmas* HWB # 208

Scripture Luke 2:21-38

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Hymn of Response *O day of God, draw nigh* insert

Sermon “Imagination in the Temple” Urbane Peachey

Sermon “Heart-pierced” Frank Muse

Hymn of Response *When Peace Like a River* HWB #336, v. 1, 4

Time of Sharing

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.

Prayer

Announcements and Introduction of Visitors

Benediction

God’s people of all ages – go now in peace.
May you be wise
to each season and time;
that every stage of life
will open its purpose to you;
that you will know
the need of the moment
and give yourself to it
with abandon
and with grace.
Amen

(adapted Jan L. Richardson blessing in *Journey of a Treasuring Heart*)

*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.*