

**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/](http://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.

# **COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER**



**HOPE.  
PEACE.  
JOY.  
LOVE.**

## **ADVENT IV—LOVE**

December 18, 2022  
328 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

	<b>Prelude</b>	<i>Carol of the Birds</i> <i>God of Surprises</i>
	<b>Lighting of the Advent Candles</b>	
	<b>Worship Leader:</b> Janet & Paul Allen	<b>Leader 1:</b> Let your light shine. Let your spirit soar. Throw open your mind. Hand over your heart. Here it comes – love. It shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows. It will not cower and cannot be contained.
	<b>Sermon:</b> Leslie Homer-Cattell	<b>Leader 2:</b> It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets. It was the fire in the belly of the Baptist and the courage of Mother Mary. Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky. Love, you lead us home.
	<b>Song Leader:</b> Marty Kelley	
	<b>Children’s Time:</b> Marilou Adams	<b>All:</b> We light the candle for HOPE. May it light the way!
	<b>Prelude &amp; Offertory:</b> Adult Choir	<b>All:</b> We light the candle for PEACE. May it light the way!
		<b>All:</b> We light the candle for JOY. May it light the way!
	<b>Sound:</b> Monte Garber (1st) Monte Garber (2nd)	<b>Leader 1:</b> On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for LOVE.
		<b>All:</b> We light a candle for LOVE. May it light the way!
	<b>Zoom Technician:</b> Steve Walter	<b>Welcome &amp; Call to Worship</b>
		<b>Leader 1:</b> We come from a world of darkness
	<b>Greeter:</b> Jean Sensenig (1st) Zita Angelo (2nd)	<b>All:</b> Into Christ’s world of light
		<b>Leader 2:</b> We come from a world of weariness
	<b>Ushers:</b> Sherry Groff (1st) Bonnie Weaver (1st) Ken Beam (2nd) Pauline Zimmerman (2nd)	<b>All:</b> Into God’s strength, hope and love
		<b>Leader 2:</b> We come from a slumbering world
		<b>All:</b> Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ.
	<b>Gathering Hymns</b>	<i>My Soul Proclaims with Wonder</i> VT 222
	<b>Fishbowl:</b> Beth Crosby Denise Cope	<i>Oh Little Town of Bethlehem</i> VT 245
	<b>A Prayer for the Children</b>	
	<b>Offertory</b>	<i>O Wondrous Story</i> <i>African Gloria</i>

<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Matthew 1:18-25</b>	
	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 fulfil 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.	
	<b>Sermon</b>	
<b>Hymn of Response</b>	<i>Love Has Come</i>	VT 258
<b>Sharing Time &amp; Prayer</b>		
<b>Announcements &amp; Introductions</b>		
<b>Sending Hymn</b>	<i>Joy to the World</i>	VT 240
<b>Benediction</b>		
	As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.	
	From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, we are not alone.	
	The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, “Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon.”	
	May it be so. Amen.	
	<i>2nd service is the CMCL Christmas pageant, including songs by the choir and the congregation along with the telling of the Christmas story. Thanks to all involved.</i>	
	<b>Songs by the choir:</b> <i>Carol of the Birds</i> by Roger Lentz, based on an anonymous poem from Bas-Quercy <i>God of Surprises</i> by Francis Patrick O’Brien <i>O Wondrous Story</i> by Nancy and Don Besig <i>African Gloria</i> by Benjamin Harlan	
	<b>Thanks to singers and accompanists:</b> Piano: Roger Lentz; Drums: Ezra Kauffman; Flute and Shaker: Alicia Smith	