

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/

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.**

January 1, 2023
328 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

	Prelude	<i>Could it be that God is Singing</i>	VT 42
	Lighting of Peace Lamp		
Worship Leader: Paul Allen	Welcome		
	Call to Worship		
Meditation: Peace & Justice Committee	L:	This is a call to all those who are poor in spirit,	
	C:	for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	
Song Leader: Beth Graybill	L:	This is a call to all those who mourn,	
	C:	for they will be comforted.	
Children’s Time: Janet Allen	L:	This is a call to all those who are meek,	
	C:	for they will inherit the earth.	
Prelude & Offertory: Jean Sensenig Daryl Snider	L:	This is a call to all those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,	
	C:	for they will be filled.	
	L:	This is a call to all those who are the merciful,	
	C:	for they will be shown mercy.	
Sound: Michael Eby-Good	L:	This is a call to all those who are the pure in heart,	
	C:	for they will see God.	
Zoom	L:	This is a call to all those who are the peacemakers,	
Technician: Stock Weinstock	C:	for they will be called children of God.	
	L:	This is a call to all those who are persecuted because of righteousness,	
Greeter: David Stallings	C:	for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	
	L:	Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Jesus.	
Ushers: Deb Hall Laurel Martin	Gathering Hymn	<i>Solemn stillness, weary streets</i>	VT 276
Fishbowl: Carol Eby-Good Larry Groff	Children’s Time		
	Offering/Offertory	<i>Lovers in a Dangerous Time</i>	by Bruce Cockburn
	Offering Prayer		
	God of questions and answers, give us a hunger and thirst for righteousness; fill our hearts with love, overflowing with mercy; make our hearts pure, and give us a vision of your glory.		

In a society divided by race, gender, class, ideology, sexual orientation, and so many other labels we alone have created, remind us that we are created in your image, each of us a beautiful reflection of you, each of us your beloved child. Help us then to end our conflicts and wars, help us to be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation.

Scripture Micah 6:8 & Matthew 5:3-12

Listen here Mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what “good” is, and what YHWH needs from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk with your God.

Meditation

Hymn of Response

Sharing Time & Prayer

Announcements & Introductions

Closing Hymn

Benediction

Maybe the Sermon on the Mount is all about Jesus’ lavish blessing of the people around him on that hillside who his world—like ours—didn’t seem to have much time for: people in pain, people who work for peace instead of profit, people who exercise mercy instead of vengeance. Maybe Jesus was simply blessing the ones around him that day who didn’t otherwise receive blessing, who had come to believe that, for them, blessings would never be in the cards. I mean, come on, doesn’t that just sound like something Jesus would do? Extravagantly throwing around blessings as though they grew on trees?

I imagine Jesus standing here blessing us all because I believe that is our Lord’s nature. Because, after all, it was Jesus who had all the powers of the universe at his disposal, but did not consider his equality with God something to be exploited. Instead, he came to us in the most vulnerable of ways, as a powerless, flesh-and-blood newborn. As if to say, “You may hate your bodies, but I am blessing all human flesh. You may admire strength and might, but I am blessing all human weakness. You may seek power, but I am blessing all human vulnerability.” This Jesus whom we follow cried at the tomb of his friend and turned the other cheek and forgave those who hung him on a cross. Because he was God’s Beatitude—God’s blessing to the weak in a world that admires only the strong.

Nadia Bolz-Weber.