

WHO WE ARE

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.

DISMANTLING RACISM STATEMENT

The predominantly white CMCL community acknowledges a history of unearned privilege and opportunity that occurred at the expense of those of color. We commit to move beyond mere words to tangible reparative acts, increasingly reflected in our annual church budget and through individual contributions. We see this lifelong process of learning and action to be transformational yet acknowledge this is only a step.



FOR THE BEGINNING
— YOU ARE A BLESSING —
ADVENT: WEEK ONE

12.01
2024

COMMUNITY MENNONITE
CHURCH OF LANCASTER
328 WEST ORANGE ST.
LANCASTER, PA 17603

Worship Leader:

Diane Umble

Prelude*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

Advent Anthem

Prelude & Offertory:

Jean Sensenig

Sarah Shirk

Daryl Snider

Ron Umble

Lighting of the Advent Candle**Welcome & Call to Worship**

God says,

“Do not be afraid.”

God says,

“I have called you by name.”

God says,

“I will be with you.”

God says,

“You are precious and honored in my sight.”

At the beginning of this season,

at the start of this week,

at the top of this hour,

may we wrap ourselves in these words.**May we begin again.**

Let us worship our Holy God!

Lighting of the**Advent Candles:**

Weigel Family

Sermon:

Judy Zook

Song Leader:

Joanne Leatherman

Children’s Time:

Ed Kane

Gathering Songs*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*

VT 216

Sound:

Scott Volz

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

VT 218

Children’s Time*Come and See*

VT 282

Zoom Technician:

Steve Walter

Offering Prayer & Offertory*With Mary Sing Magnificat*

Advent Anthem

Greeters:

Beth Crosby

John Kanagy

Ushers:

Scott Weaver

Sherry Groff

Scripture — Luke 1:26-38 CEB

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.” Then Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I haven’t had sexual relations with a man?”

The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God.” Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Fishbowl Volunteers:

André Chubb

Larry Groff

Eva Towers

Environment Design:

Alicia Smith

Crescentia Volz

Sermon**Song of Response***In Case No One Ever Told You*

see insert

Sharing Time & Prayer*Loving God...hear our prayers***Announcements & Introduction of Visitors****Closing Song***Lord, Listen to Your Children*

VT 682

Benediction

As you leave this place,
 may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.
 May you have the courage to hold onto hope,
 the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
 and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
 For in a world full of dead ends,
 Advent invites us to begin again.
 So start here.
 Start now.
 Start with love and begin again.
 In the name of Christ,
 our new beginning,
 go in peace.

Cover Image: “Favored One” (inspired by Luke 1:26-38) digital painting by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Call to Worship: Inspired by Isaiah 43:1-4 and Luke 1:26-29