

## 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/](http://www.communitymennonite.org/about-us/what-we-believe/)

## CMCL VISION PRAYER

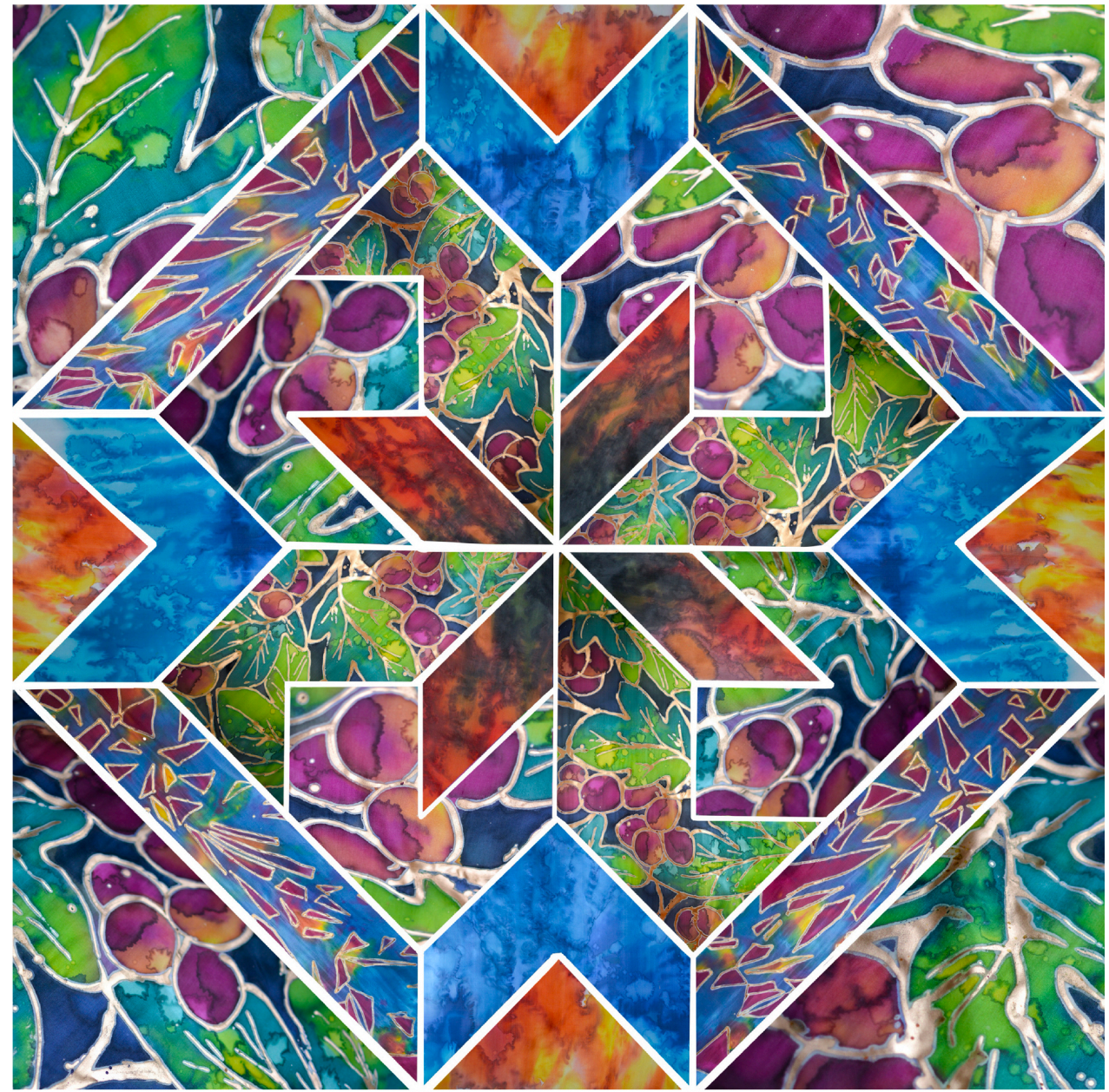
*Through your grace, O God, form us into a community called to follow Jesus, known and loved by you, nourished throughout our lives by worship, relationships and the biblical story, open to new voices and new dreams, committed to one another in times of celebration and difficulty, responsive to human 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.*

## 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.*



**WORDS**  
FOR THE **BEGINNING**  
— DO THE GOOD THAT —  
IS YOURS TO DO  
ADVENT: WEEK THREE

328 WEST ORANGE ST.  
LANCASTER, PA 17603

12.15.2024

COMMUNITY MENNONITE  
CHURCH OF LANCASTER

**Worship Leader:**

Joseph Gascho

**Prelude***People in This Hall (English Carol)*

arr. Harry Simeone

**Prelude & Offertory:**

Adult Christmas Choir

**Lighting of the Advent Candle****Lighting of the****Advent Candles:**

Nugent Family

**Welcome & Call to Worship****Gathering Songs***Could it be that God is Singing?*

VT 352

*This Little Light of Mine*

VT 762

**Sermon:**

Susan Gascho-Cooke

**Children's Time***Come and See*

VT 282

**Song Leader:**

Marcy Hostetler

**Offering Prayer****Children's Time:**

Kay Reist

**Offertory***Sing We Now of Christmas*

arr. Fred Prentice

**Sound:**

Ezra Kauffman

*Gesu Bambino*

by Martens and Yon,

arr. Linda Spevacek

**Zoom Technician:**

Drew Brubaker

**Scripture — Luke 3:7-16 CEB**

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire."

The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same." Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect." Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?" He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

**Isaiah 58:9-12 CEB**

Cry, and YHWH will answer; call, and God will say, 'I am here' — provided you remove from your midst all oppression, finger pointing, and malicious talk!

If you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows will become like the noon. YHWH will always guide you, giving relief in desert places. God will give strength to your bones and you will be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never run dry. You will rebuild the ancient ruins, and build upon age-old foundations. You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, and Restorer of Ruined Neighborhoods.

**Sermon — Do the Good that is Yours to Do****Sharing Time & Prayer***Loving God...hear our prayers***Announcements & Introduction of Visitors****Closing Song***Let Us Depart with Your Blessing (Save us, O Lord)*

VT 833

**Benediction**

by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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.

**ADULT CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

**Choir Members:** Rebecca Boyer, Beth Crosby, Daniel Erdman, Luke Good, Beth Graybill, Deb Hall, Marty Kelley, Joanne Leatherman, Laurel Martin, Nouraz Leister Chaman, Mary Alice Ressler, Jean Sensenig, Karen Shenk-Zeager, Sarah Shirk, Diane Umble, Ron Umble, Stock Weinstock

**Instrumentalists:** Roger Lentz (piano), Alicia Smith (flute)

**Cover Image:**

"The Good That Is Yours"

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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