

## 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.*



# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

COMMUNITY MENNONITE  
CHURCH OF LANCASTER

12.24.2024

328 WEST ORANGE ST.  
LANCASTER, PA 17603



**Worship Leader:**  
Faith Cowell

**Prelude**  
*Silent Night*

**Song Leader:**  
Marty Kelley

**Welcome & Call to Worship**

Leader: In a weary and worn world,  
how do we begin again?

**Special Music:**  
CMCL Choir

**People: Where do we start?**

Leader: Let us begin with hope.  
Let us begin with peace.  
Let us begin with joy.  
Let us begin with love.

**Prelude:**  
Stock Weinstock  
Roger Lentz

**People: Yes, let us begin with love, for  
surely love knows our name.**

**Sound:**  
Ezra Kauffman

Leader: Today, in addition to the candles of hope,  
peace, joy, and love,  
we light the Christ Candle.

**Readers:**  
Janet Dick  
Phil Kreider  
Don Stoltzfus

*(pause as we light the Christ Candle)*

**Together: Surely God is in this place.  
Surely the Spirit is near.  
Surely love knows our name.**

**Zoom Technician:**

**Greeter:**  
Ken Beam

**Carols**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* VT 421  
*O Come, O Come, Immanuel* VT 210

**Ushers:**  
Marian Good  
Pauline Zimmerman

**Scripture — Luke 2:1-7, The Birth of Jesus**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Special Music**

*Hush, My Babe*  
*Noche anunciada (Night Long Awaited)*

**Carols**

*Away in A Manger* VT 257  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem* VT 245

**Scripture — Luke 2:8-14, A Message from the Angels**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!’

**Carol**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

VT 249

**Scripture — John 2:15-20, The Shepherds Share the Story**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Carols**

*What Child is This?/Helpless and Hungry*

VT 267/268

*Silent Night*

VT 244

**Benediction**

Leader: May we rest in the good news that  
Unto us a child is born.  
A light shines in the darkness and the  
darkness cannot overcome it.

**Together: Glory to God in the highest heaven!  
Amen.**

*All are welcome to join us for cookies and hot drinks  
in the Parrot Gallery following the service!*