

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

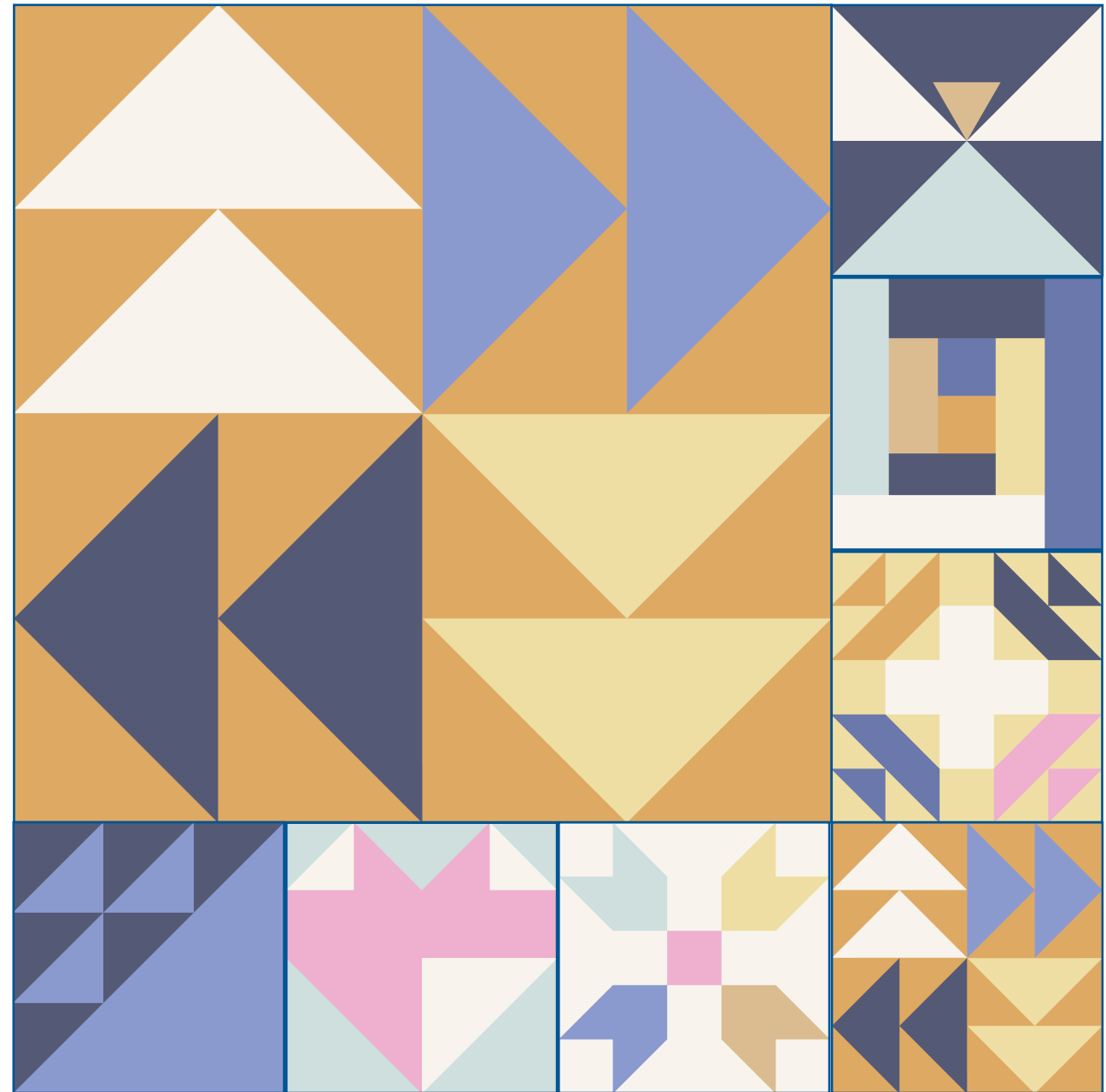
Through your grace, O God, form us into a community called to follow Jesus, known and loved by you, nourished throughout our lives by worship, relationships and the biblical story, open to new voices and new dreams, committed to one another in times of celebration and difficulty, responsive to human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



WORDS
FOR THE BEGINNING
— THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT —
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

01.05

328 WEST ORANGE ST.
LANCASTER, PA 17603

2025

COMMUNITY MENNONITE
CHURCH OF LANCASTER

Worship Leader: **Prelude**
Judy Zook *Heaven Is*

by Kacey Musgraves

Prelude & Offertory: **Lighting of the Peace Candle**
Matt, Anika & Landry Krebs

Welcome & Call to Worship
How did you get here?

Left: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.
Right: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.
Left: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.
Right: I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.
Tell me again. How did you get here?

I am here by God's grace and love's pull.
Welcome home.
This is God's house.

There is room for you here.

Let us worship our gracious God.

Gathering Songs

As With Gladness VT 277

Arise Your Light VT 273

Children's Time *Come and See* VT 282

• **4th Grade Blessing**

Kellen Deininger (Wesley Deininger and Lindsey Deininger)

Aiden Nugent (Mitch Nugent and Diana Nugent)

Arlo Sampaio (Emerson Sampaio and Nora Sampaio)

Maya Iyengar (Raj Iyengar and Carmalena Stoltzfus Iyengar)

Offering Prayer & Offertory

Auld Lang Syne/Parting Glass Scottish Traditional/boygenius

Scripture — Isaiah 43:16-17a, 18-19 CEB

The Lord says—who makes a way in the sea
and a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse, army and battalion;
Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history.
Look! I'm doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.

Matthew 2:1-4;7-12 CEB

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Sermon

The Road Isn't Straight

Song of Response

In The Beginning VT 270

Sharing Time & Prayer

Loving God...hear our prayers

Announcements & Introduction of Visitors

Closing Song

Beyond the Dying Sun VT 416

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.

Sermon:
Susan Gascho-Cooke

Song Leader:
Joanne Leatherman

Pianist:
Matt Krebs

Scripture Reading:
Carmalena Iyengar
Stoltzfus, Raj, Maya,
& Leena Iyengar

Children's Time:
Meredith Fisher

Sound:
Scott Volz

Zoom Technician:
Drew Brubaker

Greeters:
Carolyn Weaver
Marty Kelley

Ushers:
Linford Good
Phil Kreider

Fishbowl Volunteers:
Beth Crosby
Ashley Miller
Eva Towers

Environment Design:
Alicia Smith
Crescentia Volz