

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.



at **FIVE
HUNDRED**

Looking back,
LIVING FORWARD

328 WEST ORANGE ST.
LANCASTER, PA 17603

02.02.2025

COMMUNITY MENNONITE
CHURCH OF LANCASTER

Worship Leader:
Marcia Towers

Prelude
Holy, Holy, Holy

Prelude & Offertory:
Rhea Miller
Marcy Hostetler
Anna Smucker

Lighting of the Peace Candle

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.
What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.
That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us.

How the Light Comes,
by Jan Richardson

Sermon:

That it loves
searching out
what is hidden,
what is lost,
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.

Song Leader:
Marty Kelley

Children's Time:
Judy Zook

That it has a fondness
for the body,
for finding its way
toward flesh,
for tracing the edges
of form,
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.

Sound:
Scott Volz

Zoom Technician:
Drew Brubaker

Greeters:
Esther Becker
Marty Kelley

I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.

Ushers:
John Kanagy
Sherry Groff

Fishbowl Volunteers:
Carolyn Dries
Jane Weigel

And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.

Environment Design:
Alicia Smith
Crescentia Volz

Hymn
Longing for Light

VT 715

Call to Worship

VT 869

Gathering Song
Praise with Joy the World's Creator

VT 428

Children's Time

Come and See

VT 282

Offering Prayer & Offertory

In the Bleak Midwinter

VT 1025

Scripture — Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Sermon — For God's Sake, Do Something Courageous! (John Roth, sermon on January 21, 2025, at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN, during a worship service celebrating 500 years of Anabaptist Faith.)

For many years (1985-2022), John D. Roth was a professor of history at Goshen College, where he also served as director of the Mennonite Historical Library and editor of The Mennonite Quarterly Review. John has published widely on topics related to Anabaptist-Mennonite history and church life. He is also the founding director of the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism at Goshen College and secretary of the Mennonite World Conference Faith and Life Commission. In July 2022, John accepted a new position with MennoMedia as project director of the Anabaptism at 500 initiative. John and his wife, Ruth, are the parents of four adult children and grandparents to five grandchildren. They are active members of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship in Goshen, Indiana.

Questions for Further Liberty: What is God's deepest wish for humanity? Where is history heading? What is your role in shaping that history? What would it mean to bear witness to a vision of Christian community rooted in shalom, honoring the dignity of every human being, sharing freely the gifts that we have received from God and loving even our enemies with courage?

Song of Response

God of Grace and God of Glory

VT 716

Sharing Time & Prayer — Loving God...hear our prayers

Announcements & Introduction of Visitors

Closing Song

Praise God (Dedicated Anthem)

VT 70

Benediction

Go in love,

For love alone endures.

Go in peace,

for it is the gift of God.

Go in courage,

for we cannot go where God is not.

***TODAY'S ADULT CHRISTIAN ED:** *Hymns from 16th-Century Anabaptist:* Led by a mixed quartet (Jean Sensenig, Kate Smucker, Daryl Snider, Ron Umble) accompanied by Roger Lentz, this session explores songs with connections to 16th-century Anabaptism found in *Voices Together*. These include songs from the *Ausbund*, songs based on 16th-century sources set to contemporary tunes, and songs with words from writings by 16th-century Anabaptist women.