

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.



Worship Leader: Judy Zook	Prelude <i>Swing Low Sweet Chariot</i>	arr. Pax Ressler
Prelude & Offertory: Mary Alice Ressler Luke Good Leon Miller Ron Umble	Lighting of the Peace Candle	
Scripture Reader: Julie Amaral	Welcome & Call to Worship One: Mothering God, For your creative, creating energy,	Joanna Harader
Sermon: Susan Gascho-Cooke	All: <i>We give you thanks.</i> For groaning in labor pains, <i>We give you thanks</i> For the tears you shed, <i>We give you thanks</i> For the shelter of your wings, <i>We give you thanks</i> For stirring our nests and carrying us aloft, <i>We give you thanks.</i> For feeding us and weaning us and holding us, <i>We give you thanks</i> For the fierce strength of your love, <i>We give you thanks</i>	
Song Leader: Marty Kelley	Gathering Songs <i>Longing for Light</i>	VT 715
Accompanist: Larnie Myer	<i>Be still and Know</i>	VT 37
Children’s Time: Ed Kane	Children’s Time <i>Come and See</i>	VT 282
Sound: Daryl Snider	Offering Prayer & Offertory <i>Jesus, the Light of the World</i>	by Charles Wesley, arr. R. Umble
Zoom Technician: Ezra Kauffman	Scripture — Luke 1:39-56 CEB, adapt. Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, “God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.” Mary said, “With all my heart I glorify God! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. God has looked with favor on the low status of this servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is God’s name.	
Fishbowl Volunteers: Jane Weigel Maren Morgan		
Worship Environment: Crescentia Volz Alicia Smith		
Bulletin Images: <i>The Visitation 1, ceramics</i> ©Kerry Holland, shared w/ permission of the artist.		

God shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors them as God.
God has shown strength with their arm.
has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.
has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.
God has come to the aid of servant Israel,
in remembrance of God’s mercy,
just as God promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever.”
Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

Sermon

Communion

Song of Response

My Soul Cries Out VT 412

Sharing Time & Prayer

*Loving God...****hear our prayers***

Announcements & Introduction of Visitors

Closing Song

Like a Mother who has Borne Us VT 518, vs. 1 & 4

Benediction

based on a prayer by Joanna Harader
Nurturing Mother God,
Grant your holy energy
to those birthing new life in this world.
For all who gasp and pant with you
in life-giving labor,
Grant your blessing,
Grant your peace.
Amen.

