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.

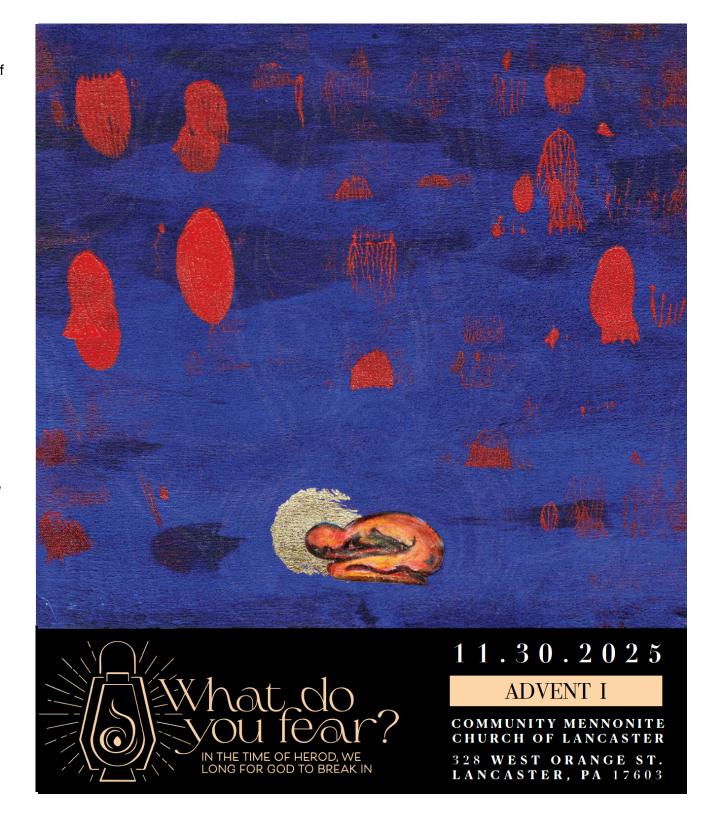
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

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: Prelude Joseph Gascho

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Traditional

VT 282

Sermon:

Susan Gascho-Cooke Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prelude & Offertory:

Stock Weinstock Christy Kauffman Lucas Harnish

Gathering Songs

Musicians: Stock Weinstock **David Stallings**

Special Music: Nathan Landis Funk Beka Jewel

Accompanist: Offertory

Marcia Hostetter

Song Leader: Ron Umble

Children's Time: Janet Allen

> Sound: Daryl Snider

Zoom Technician: Ezra Kauffman

> **Greeters:** Beth Crosby John Kanagy

Ushers: Carolyn Weaver Ryan Kauffman

Fishbowl Volunteers: Scott Groffman Maren Morgan

Worship Environment:

Crescentia Volz Symphony Volz Maren Morgan

Cover Art:

Beaugelin Caldwell. Inspired by Sermon Lamentations 3:55-57. Acrylic, oil pastel, metal leaf on canvas

Dave Stalling Welcome & Call to Worship

VT 217 Hark!! the Glad Sound! VT 238 Wisdom From on High

Children's Time Come and See

Offering Prayer

Lo. How a Rose // The Rose

Based on an arrangement by Craig Hella Johnson

Scripture — Luke 1:5-13, Lamentations 3:55-57 CEB

During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old. One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty. Following the customs of priestly service, he was chosen by lottery to go into the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense. All the people who gathered to worship were praying outside during this hour of incense offering. An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw the angel. he was startled and overcome with fear. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John.

I call on your name. Lord, from the depths of the pit. Hear my voice. Don't close your ear to my need for relief, to my cry for help. Come near to me on the day I call to you. Say to me, "Don't be afraid."

Song

Depths, by Carmelle In the Time of Herod see bulletin insert

Special Music

Show Up

Sharing Time & Prayer

Loving God...hear our prayers

Announcements & Introduction of Visitors

Closing Song

The Lord is My Light

VT 437

Benediction

In a fearful world. may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls. the one who sends. and the one who journeys with go in peace and be not afraid. Amen.