

## 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.*





What do  
you fear?

IN THE TIME OF HEROD, WE  
LONG FOR GOD TO BREAK IN

11.30.2025

ADVENT I

COMMUNITY MENNONITE  
CHURCH OF LANCASTER

328 WEST ORANGE ST.  
LANCASTER, PA 17603



<b>Worship Leader:</b> Joseph Gascho	<b>Prelude</b> <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	Traditional
<b>Sermon:</b> Susan Gascho-Cooke	<b>Lighting of the Advent Wreath</b>	
<b>Prelude &amp; Offertory:</b> Dave Stalling Stock Weinstock Christy Kauffman Lucas Harnish	<b>Welcome &amp; Call to Worship</b>	
<b>Musicians:</b> Stock Weinstock David Stallings	<b>Gathering Songs</b> <i>Hark!! the Glad Sound!</i>	VT 217
	<i>Wisdom From on High</i>	VT 238
<b>Special Music:</b> Nathan Landis Funk Beka Jewel	<b>Children’s Time</b> <i>Come and See</i>	VT 282
<b>Offering Prayer</b>		
<b>Accompanist:</b> Marcia Hostetter	<b>Offertory</b> <i>Lo, How a Rose // The Rose</i>	Based on an arrangement by Craig Hella Johnson
<b>Song Leader:</b> Ron Umble	<b>Scripture — Luke 1:5-13, Lamentations 3:55-57 CEB</b>	
<b>Children’s Time:</b> Janet Allen	<p>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.</p> <p>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.”</p>	
<b>Sound:</b> Daryl Snider		
<b>Zoom Technician:</b> Ezra Kauffman		
<b>Greeters:</b> Beth Crosby John Kanagy		
<b>Ushers:</b> Carolyn Weaver Ryan Kauffman		
<b>Fishbowl Volunteers:</b> Scott Groffman Maren Morgan		
<b>Worship Environment:</b> Crescentia Volz Symphony Volz Maren Morgan		
<b>Cover Art:</b> <i>Depths</i> , by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell. Inspired by Lamentations 3:55-57. Acrylic, oil pastel, metal leaf on canvas	<b>Song</b> <i>In the Time of Herod</i>	see bulletin insert
<b>Sermon</b>		
<b>Special Music</b> <i>Show Up</i>		

**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.