

## 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.*



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ADVENT II

COMMUNITY MENNONITE  
CHURCH OF LANCASTER  
328 WEST ORANGE ST.  
LANCASTER, PA 17603

<b>Worship Leader:</b>	<b>Prelude</b>	
Marcia Towers	<i>Bouree and Minuet</i>	arr. Sigmund Hering
<b>Sermon:</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Call to Worship</b>	
Pam Brubaker	God of starlight, when the weight of the world presses in on us,	
<b>Prelude &amp; Offertory:</b>	<b>when injustice and suffering feel like the dominant narrative,</b>	
Kate Umble	when hope begins to slip through our hands,	
Aidan Powers	<b>run toward us.</b>	
Roger Lentz	Remind us of the birds that sing in the morning.	
<b>Song Leader:</b>	<b>Remind us of the flowers that push through thawing ground.</b>	
Beth Graybill	Remind us of the groups of people that have always made a difference.	
<b>Children’s Time:</b>	<b>Remind us of the work this church has done.</b>	
Ed Kane	Remind us of the work our hands are capable of,	
<b>Sound:</b>	<b>and the love our heart already knows.</b>	
Scott Volz	And as you do, we will continue to remind each other of your presence in our world.	
<b>Zoom Technician:</b>	<b>As you do, we will continue to tell each other the stories</b>	
Steve Walter	of the hungry being fed,	
<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>the sick being healed,</b>	
Esther Becker	the captives being released,	
Marty Kelley	<b>and the lion lying with the lamb.</b>	
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Lighting of the Advent Wreath</b>	
Kelvin Mack	In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?	
Laura Boll	I see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they’re sorry, and when the church sings together.	
<b>Fishbowl Volunteers:</b>	<i>You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.</i>	
Carol Spicher	Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news.	
André Chubb	May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it. Light candle.	
Symphony Volz	<i>Thanks be to God! Amen.</i>	
<b>Worship Environment:</b>	<b>Gathering Songs</b>	
Crescentia Volz	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	VT 218
Symphony Volz	<i>Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called</i>	VT 220
Maren Morgan	<b>Children’s Time</b>	<i>Come and See</i> VT 282
<b>Cover Art:</b>	<b>Offering Prayer &amp; Offertory</b>	
<i>Hope Like a Dancer</i> by	<i>Sonata for Cornet and Piano, mvt II</i>	Thorvald Hansen
Lauren Wright Pittman	<b>Scripture — Matthew 11:1-11, Isaiah 43:19-21 CEB</b>	
A Sanctified Art LLC	When Jesus finished teaching his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.	
sanctifiedart.org	Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”	
	Jesus responded, “Go, report to John what you hear and see. <i>Those who were blind are able to see.</i> Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. <i>Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them.</i> Happy are those who don’t stumble and fall because of me.”	

When John’s disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: “What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. He is the one of whom it is written: *Look, I’m sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.* “I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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.  
The beasts of the field,  
the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,  
because I have put water in the desert  
and streams in the wilderness  
to give water to my people,  
my chosen ones,  
this people whom I formed for myself,  
who will recount my praise.

**Sermon — At-One-Ment**

**Song of Response**  
*Don’t be Afraid* VT 596

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

**Announcements & Introduction of Visitors**

**Closing Song**  
*There’s a Wild Hope in the Wind* VT 828

**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.