

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

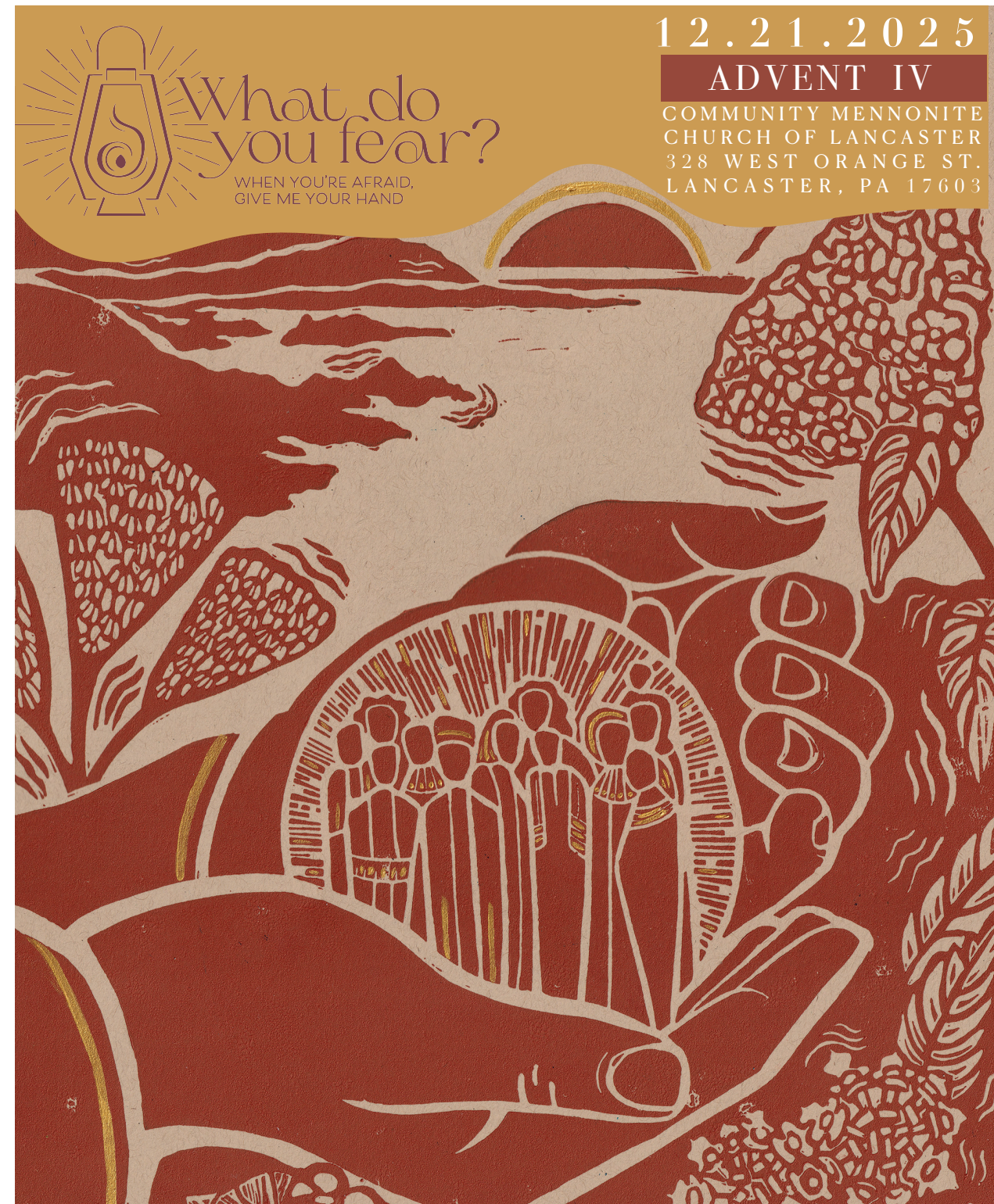
*Through your grace, O God, form us into a community
called to follow Jesus,
known and loved by you,
nourished throughout our lives by
worship, relationships and the biblical story,
open to new voices and new dreams,
committed to one another in times of celebration and difficulty,
responsive to human 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: Sherry Groff	Prelude <i>Christmas Hymn</i>	arr. Hugo Jungst
Sermon: Susan Gascho-Cooke	Welcome & Call to Worship Here in worship— we pray together, we stand together, we sing together, we listen together. Here in worship— we are not alone.	
Prelude & Offertory: Adult Choir, led by Marty Kelley		
Piano Accompanist: Roger Lentz		
Song Leader: Ron Umble	So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry, remember this moment. We are not alone.	
Children’s Time: Darrell Yoder	Let us worship our with-us God.	
Sound: Monte Garber	Lighting of the Advent Wreath	
Zoom Technician: Marcia Towers	Gathering Songs <i>Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord</i>	VT 219
	<i>My Soul Proclaims with Wonder</i>	VT 222
Greeters: Diane Umble Larry Groff	Children’s Time <i>Come and See</i>	VT 282
Ushers: Linford Good Jack Shope	Offering Prayer & Offertory <i>Christmas Night</i>	by Andrejs Jansons
Fishbowl Volunteers: Christy Heatwole Kauffman Lindsey Deininger	<i>Who will go to Bethlehem</i>	by Simon Andrews
Worship Environment: Crescentia Volz Symphony Volz Maren Morgan	Scripture — Matthew 1:18-25, Isaiah 41:5-10 CEB This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn’t want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled: <i>Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, And they will call him, Emmanuel.</i> (<i>Emmanuel</i> means “God with us.”) When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn’t have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.	
Cover Art: "I Am With You" (inspired by Isaiah 41:5-10) by Lauren Wright Pittman A Sanctified Art LLC sanctifiedart.org	The coastlands see and fear; the ends of the earth tremble; they draw near and arrive. Each helps the other, each saying to the other, “Take courage!” The craftsman encourages the metalworker;	

the one who smoothes with the hammer
encourages the one who strikes the anvil,
saying of the welding, “That’s good,”
and strengthening it with nails so it won’t move.

But you, Israel my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
offspring of Abraham, whom I love,
you whom I took from the ends of the earth
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, “You are my servant;
I chose you and didn’t reject you”:
Don’t fear, because I am with you;
don’t be afraid, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you,
I will surely help you;
I will hold you
with my righteous strong hand.

Sermon — *The Work of the Hands*

Song of Response
Comfort, Comfort, O My People VT 212

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

Announcements & Introduction of Visitors

Closing Song
Good Christian Friends Rejoice VT 261

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.