

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.



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Celebration of Community

COMMUNITY MENNONITE
CHURCH OF LANCASTER

10.18.26

328 W. ORANGE ST.
LANCASTER, PA 17603

Worship Leader: Christy Heatwole Kauffman	Prelude	
Song Leader: Ron Umble	Lighting of the Peace Candle God of the Cosmos, you who dwell in the vastness and the dust, remind us of our place in a world marked by systems of violence. Uncover in us the roles we play, and open our hearts to the work of unmaking what harms. We are here to listen, to learn, and to act with compassion and love.	
Prelude & Offertory: Lucas Harnish	Welcome & Call to Worship Teach us to behold one another fully as kin, woven together in love, and held in the sacred dignity of shared breath and becoming. We are one family, created in the divine image.	
Children’s Time: Susan Gascho-Cooke		
Special Music: Nathan Landis Funk		
Readers: Dan Laubach Joanne Leatherman Marcia Towers John Weigel	Core Value 3: We are NOURISHED THROUGH WORSHIP	
	Gathering Hymn <i>What Is This Place</i>	VT 22
Sound: Monte Garber	Core Value 1: We are KNOWN AND LOVED BY GOD	
Zoom Technician: Steve Walter	Children’s Time <i>Come and See</i>	VT 282
Greeters: Joanne Leatherman Deb Hall	Offering	
Ushers: Pauline Zimmerman Carolyn Weaver	Core Value 8: We are RESPONSIVE TO HUMAN NEED	
Foyer Monitor: Chris Longenecker	Offertory	
Parrot Gallery Greeter: Lamar Weaver	Core Value 5: We are NOURISHED THROUGH THE BIBLICAL STORY	
Fishbowl Volunteers: Gwen Eberly Alicia Jantzi	Scripture: Matthew 12:1-13 CEB At that time Jesus went through the wheat fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry so they were picking heads of wheat and eating them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are breaking the Sabbath law.” But he said to them, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and those with him were hungry? He went into God’s house and broke the law by eating the bread of the presence, which only the priests were allowed to eat. Or haven’t you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple treat the Sabbath as any other day and are still innocent? But I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what this means, <i>I want mercy and not sacrifice</i> , you wouldn’t have condemned the innocent. The Human One is Lord of the Sabbath.” Jesus left that place and went into their synagogue. A man with a withered hand was there. Wanting to bring charges against Jesus, they asked, “Does the Law allow a person to heal on the Sabbath?” Jesus replied, “Who among you has a sheep that falls into a pit on the Sabbath and will not take hold of it and pull it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! So the Law allows a person to do what is good on the Sabbath.” Then Jesus said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he did and it was made healthy, just like the other one.	
Worship Environment: Maren Morgan	Core Value 2: We are CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS <i>“Humanity of Jesus Christ,” Jim Palmer (Center for Non-Religious Spirituality)</i>	
Prayers from: <i>Liturgies for Resisting Empire: Seeking Community, Belonging, and Peace in a Dehumanizing World</i> by Kat Armas	Hymn <i>For Those With Whom Our Lives Are Bound</i>	VT 734
Cover Photo: Siraphol Siricharattakul via vecteezy.com		

Core Value 6: We are OPEN TO NEW VOICES	<i>... invitation to listen</i>
Core Value 7: We are OPEN TO NEW DREAMS	
Hymn <i>Let Us Build a House</i>	VT 36
Core Value 9: We strive to RESPOND WITH JUSTICE, PEACEMAKING & COMPASSION “Transformation” by Sarah Augustine, from <i>Transformation: Crisis • Dark Night • Transformation</i>	
Celebration of Community Ritual <i>Ripple</i>	by The Grateful Dead (words by Robert Hunter, music by Jerry Garcia) <i>all are invited to come forward and drop a stone into the bowl as a symbol of your presence in this community</i>

Core Value 4: We are NOURISHED THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS
Sharing Time May the spaces we inhabit be a sanctuary for all, places where we lay down pretense and practice honesty. May the life we lead draw us closer to the heart of God and nearer to the truth of who we are. May we practice gentleness with ourselves and others, honoring the stories we carry and the needs we hold. May our longing for belonging be met in glimpses of the deeper belonging we already have in the heart of God. May we create a circle of belonging that includes all.

Announcements & Introduction of Visitors
Core Value 10: We are being DRAWN INTO A NEW CREATION
Hymn <i>New Earth, Heaven New</i>
Benediction May we go forth knowing that we are woven into a tapestry of kinship that stretches wide and far, into this world and beyond. May we carry this knowledge into every place we inhabit, every moment we breathe. When we feel ourselves shrinking, may we remember that we belong in all spaces, in all ways. We are loved not for what we do but for who we are. We are seen, and it is good. Amen.

VT 377