



WELCOME

Together on the
Journey

TO LOMBARD
MENNONITE
CHURCH

December 8, 2024
Advent 2

Opening Hearts: What Do We Ask For?

We are glad you could worship with us today!

PRELUDE

Cora Botts; Neil Ewert

GATHERING

SONG OF PRAISE

Spirit of God! Descend

Pam Eiten, Song Leader
Voices Together (VT) #557

WELCOME

Deborah Wetherill

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us return to the Lord with all our hearts.

People: With our whole heart?

Leader: The hurting and hurtful part?
The bleeding and empty part?

People: The sewn-up-tight-don't-come-in heart part?

**All: With our whole heart, with all our hearts
we come to worship the Lord God,**

Leader: whose merciful compassion, abundant patience,
and faithful forgiving love meet us in our need.

—Based on Joel 2: 12-13

OPENING PRAYER

CANDLE LIGHTING

Nelessen Family

Reader 1: We know God to be merciful and compassionate,

Reader 2: patient and full of faithful love,

Reader 1: ready to forgive.

Reader 2: Created in God's image, we yearn to reflect these same attributes in our hearts and lives.

Light candle

**All: We open our hearts to receive the Spirit,
to become more like our loving God.**

PRAISING

Holy Spirit, Come with Power

VT #57

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

VT #212

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Mark & Karin Edwards

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen-Silent Night (arr. Dello Joio)

CONFESSING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S STORY

Christy Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING

Ken G Kabira

Leader: Hear the word of God.

People: Our ears and hearts are open.

Joel 2: 12-13, 28-29; Luke 11: 13

Leader: Give thanks to the One whose word is life.

People: Blessed be God forever!

SERMON

Barbara Krehbiel Gehring

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT (*silent time of reflection*)

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Spirit, Open My Heart

VT #636

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Karin Redekopp Edwards

Masters In This Hall (arr. Holst/Edwards)

SHARING IN COMMUNITY

ADVENT GIVING PROJECT

Jamie Huff

OFFERING PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER

Leader: Lord, in your mercy/goodness,

People: hear our prayer.

WORK OF THE CHURCH

SENDING

SENDING HYMN

How Many Times We Start Again

VT #553, v. 1-2

SENDING BLESSING

Please join us for coffee, tea, and conversation down in the Fellowship Hall. Children ages 2 – 5th grade go directly to Gathering Time before Sunday school (located downstairs in the back library).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you were gone last Sunday, you can pick up your **LMC Advent 2024 Table Tents** on the round table at the base of the stairs.
- Our **Advent Giving project** offers two ways to support emergency relief and peacebuilding work in Palestine. Use the QR code to learn more about the efforts and ways to donate. Thank you for your generosity!
- The **membership covenant** is in the narthex. We invite you to sign it if you haven't had a chance to do.
- Reminder to **come 5-10 minutes early** during Advent to hear our young people provide prelude music.
- Mark your calendars! All are invited to join us for a **Christmas Eve service** on Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 PM. After the service, we'll enjoy a lovely time of wishing each other merry Christmas and feasting on delicious holiday snacks.



TODAY at LMC

Congregational Meeting | 11:30 AM
Potluck | 12:15 PM

A/V Technicians: CJ Yoder, Elias
Rose

Fellowship Host: Valerie Kropf

Greeters: Jeremy & Susan Botts

Church Lockup: Lyle Bohnert

Nursery: Jeremy Steelberg,
Melissa Miller; Arlee Blackburn,
Paul Reimer

THIS WEEK at LMC

Tue—Contemplative Prayer
via Zoom, 7 PM

Wed—Women of the Word
Bible Study, 9:30 AM

Ministry Team, 7 PM

Thu—Menno Men, 9:30 AM

Pastoral Care, 7 PM

Sat—Private Recital, 1 PM

Venture Club Lock In, 7 PM