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# WELCOME

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Together on the  
Journey

TO LOMBARD  
MENNONITE  
CHURCH

December 22, 2024  
Advent 4

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Embodying God's Spirit: Who Lends a Hand?

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*We are glad you could worship with us today!*

## PRELUDE

Aaron Wetherill, Esther Wetherill

## GATHERING

### SONG OF PRAISE

*With Mary Sing Magnificat*

Jeremy Botts, Song Leader

Voices Together (VT) #208

### WELCOME

Eric Larson

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord is with us, through the power  
of the Holy Spirit. Can you conceive it?  
Don't say, "It's all relative."

**People: It's real! It's right now! It's right here!**

Leader: Come young, come old.  
Let us worship in the name of Jesus,

**All: for nothing will be impossible with God!**

### OPENING PRAYER

### CANDLE LIGHTING

Andy & Elise Ewert Family

Reader 1: Mary was told that she would be the mother  
to the promised Messiah.

Reader 2: And she responded, "I am the Lord's servant.  
Let it be with me just as you have said."

Reader 1: With the courage of Mary, we can accept  
the journey ahead of us.

Reader 2: But we do not need to walk it alone.

Reader 1: We need the support of others.

*Light candles*

**All: With Christ as our center, we join hands with others,  
walking together on the journey.**

## PRAISING

*Unexpected and Mysterious*

VT #229

*Noel*

VT #256

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION Jill Burlingame Tsekouras, Aleya Murrell  
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (trad) Esther Siony

OFFERING PRAYER

## CONFESSING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S STORY

Christy Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING

Katharine Richert

Leader: Hear the word of God.

**People: Our ears and hearts are open.**

Psalms 113; Luke 1: 26–49

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

**People: Blessed be God forever!**

SERMON

Barbara Krehbiel Gehring

“Changing Plans and Finding Favor”

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

VT #65

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*Gesu Bambino* (Pietro Alessandro Yon, arr. Christensen)  
Jill Burlingame Tsekouras, Aleya Murrell, Esther Siony

## SHARING IN COMMUNITY

ADVENT GIVING PROJECT

Rebecca Huff

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. 2-4

SENDING BLESSING

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Please join us for coffee, tea, and conversation down in the Fellowship Hall.  
We won't hold any Sunday school classes today.

### TODAY at LMC

**A/V Technicians:** Evan Richards,  
Elias Rose

**Fellowship Host:** Hilary Rhodes

**Greeter:** Ken G Kabira

**Church Lockup:** Lyle Bohnert

**Nursery:** Valerie Kropf, Dominick  
Rhodes

### THIS WEEK at LMC

**Tue**—Christmas Eve Service and  
Fellowship, 6:30 PM

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



- We just have one week left in our **Advent Giving project!** Use the QR code to join us in supporting emergency relief and peacebuilding work in Palestine.
- Please keep the **church's financial situation** in your prayers. We need to receive around \$38,000 by year-end to cover all our 2024 expenses/ commitments and end the year without dipping into our cash reserves.
- Join us for a **Christmas Eve service** this Tuesday at 6:30 PM. After the service, we'll enjoy a lovely time of fellowship. Please bring cookies and/ or hors d'oeuvres to share.
- To count as **2024 donations for tax purposes**, checks must be delivered in person or postmarked to the church office by Dec 31. Gifts through Zelle or on Church Center can be submitted until 11:55 PM on Dec 31.