



WELCOME

Together on the
Journey

TO LOMBARD
Mennonite
CHURCH

December 29, 2024
Sunday after
Christmas

Keeping Promises: Who Sees It?

We are glad you could worship with us today!

GATHERING

SONG OF PRAISE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Karin Edwards, Song Leader

Voices Together (VT) #241

WELCOME

Jamie Huff

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As we worship today, God, we ask this of you:

**People: wipe pride from our hearts,
that we might truly love one another.**

**Rinse conceit from our eyes
that we might see one another as you see.**

Leader: We rest in your promises and wait for you.

People: Calm and quiet, we trust in you.

Leader: Open our hearts,

**All: that we might let go of all that separates us
from you and one another.**

OPENING PRAYER

CANDLE LIGHTING

Jason & Hilary Rhodes Family

Reader 1: Have you heard the news? Jesus, the promised
Messiah has come!

Reader 2: I have heard the Good News! God is with us;
Jesus is here!

Light candles

**All: Let us shout it aloud for everyone to hear!
Come join us on this journey, as we live out
the Good News of Christ!**

PRAISING

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

VT #247

Angels We Have Heard on High

VT #249

Two Requests From the Congregation

CONFESSING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God with us, Jesus the one being formed in us,
Spirit who dwells within, we confess that we are
often inattentive to your presence.

Silent Confession

**All: Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you,
but so often we get in the way of ourselves.
We see only the deep sadness of the world,
and do not notice your people at work
amid the sorrow. We assume that things will never
get better, and do not see all that is good right now.
We close our eyes and complain about the darkness,
rather than see the light that shines all around us.
Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust,
in compassion and hope, so that as the Christ Child
comes to us once again, we will see him,
and know him, and rejoice. Amen.**

—Beth Merrill Neel

Blog "Hold Fast to What Is Good." Used with permission.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Dylan and Hilary Rhodes, voice

Mary Did You Know (Lowry, Greene)

Karin R. Edwards, piano

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S STORY

Christy Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING

Joe Hayward

Leader: Hear the word of God.

People: Our ears and hearts are open.

Psalms 131; Luke 2: 21-38

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

People: Blessed be God forever!

SERMON

"Anticipating the Messiah"

Richard Gehring

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

VT #248

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Dylan and Hilary Rhodes, voice

What Child is This/Helpless and Hungry Karin Edwards, piano
(Dix, English Traditional; Soper)

SHARING IN COMMUNITY

OFFERING PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER

Leader: Lord, in your mercy/goodness,

People: hear our prayer.

WORK OF THE CHURCH

SENDING

SENDING HYMN

On This Great Day of Days

VT #260

SENDING BLESSING

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: Mona & Evan Richards

Fellowship Host: Linea Richards

Greeters: TBA

Church Lockup: Lyle Bohnert

Nursery: Caroline Steelberg, Noah Rhodes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thanks to your faithful and generous giving**, we have met all our financial needs for 2024 and will finish with a surplus. Praise God!
- Next Sunday, we will celebrate **Communion Sunday**. Let us each prayerfully prepare for this time and consider whether God is calling us to reconciliation in a broken relationship (Matthew 5:23-24).
- Next week, we'll start the last stage of our **Anabaptist/Mennonite History class**. See the e-news for more info or speak to Lindy S.