

WELCOME TO Lombard Mennonite Church

December 21, 2025

BE AMAZED: LOVE COMES DOWN

Advent 4; John 1: 1-18

A worshipping community rooted in God’s love: Following Jesus • Seeking peace and justice • Serving others

PRELUDE

PRELUDE Simon Botts, Jesse Botts, Micah Johnson
Three Horn Duets, K. 487 (Mozart); In the Bleak Midwinter (Holst)

GATHERING

SONG OF PRAISE Nicholas Weddle, Soloist; Jeremy Botts, Song Leader
Once in Royal David’s City Projected

WELCOME Eric Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the beginning was love, and love was with God, and love was God.
People: We gather in awe and amazement, watching and waiting for Love to come down.
Leader: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
**People: We wait with hope,
longing for the gentle light of love to fill the world.**
Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.
People: We have seen his glory, Love embodied among us.
Leader: Come, let us worship the God who moves among us,
the Christ who draws near, the Spirit who shines in our hearts.
**All: The Light is coming! We tremble in excitement and uncertainty.
Watching, waiting, for Love to be born.** —Based on John 1: 1-18

OPENING PRAYER

PRAISING

**Love Has Come* *Voices Together* 258

**Please rise in body or spirit.*
Hearing assistive devices and a larger print hymnal and Bible are available outside the doors to the sanctuary.
Childcare (birth-age 2) is provided in the nursery at the back of the hall on this level.

**My Soul Cries Out*..... *Voices Together* 412

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION Choir; Joe Hayward, Percussion
Riu, Riu, Chiu (arr. David Waggoner)

OFFERING PRAYER

CONFESSING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,
People: forgive us, O God.
Leader: When we ignore the mighty things you have done, when we doubt your mercy,
People: forgive us, O God.
Leader: When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts,
People: when our power rests on the oppression of others,
Leader: when our wealth causes others to go hungry,
All: forgive us, O God.

Silence

Leader: Help us, your servants, according to the promises you have made.
—*Joanna Harader*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HEARING GOD’S WORD

CHILDREN'S STORY Marty Lewandowski, Hasun Lee

CANDLE LIGHTING Elias, Olivia, and Lisa Rose

Leader: We have been wandering in the long, dark night, looking into the vastness,
looking for even a glimmer of light, to usher in your love.
People: Come, Love of the world. Come amaze us.
All: May your love dispel the darkness and reveal your path of grace and mercy,
inviting us to journey with you.

SCRIPTURE READING Ken G Kabira

Leader: Hear the word of God.
People: Our ears and hearts are open.

John 1: 1-18 (p. 1294)

Leader: Give thanks to the One whose word is life.
People: Blessed be God forever!

SERMON Richard Gehring
"The Word Became Flesh"

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

SONG OF RESPONSE

Creator of the Stars of Night *Voices Together* 236

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION..... Choir, Esther Wetherill, Violin
Peace, Peace (Rick & Sylvia Powell)

SHARING IN COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS & CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER

Leader: Lord, in your mercy/goodness, *We mute the livestream during this sharing time; prayers are written for distribution for the congregation.*
People: **hear our prayer.**

WORK OF THE CHURCH

Please come to the front row and use the microphone to make your announcement.

SENDING

SENDING SONG

**He Came Down* *Voices Together* 239

*SENDING BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Join us for a merry and bright **Christmas Eve service and fellowship time** on Wednesday at 6:30pm! It will feature our Christmas pageant, with LMC children and youth presenting the Christmas story. Please bring cookies and/or hors d’oeuvres to share with your LMC family in the fellowship time following the service.

Please keep the **church's financial situation** in your prayers. We need to receive around \$62,120 by year-end to cover all our 2025 expenses/commitments without dipping into our cash reserves.

Our midweek activities and Sunday school classes **are on break** for two weeks.

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

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

Children/youth ages 3 – 12th grade go to the back library when the bell rings. You will then proceed to the sanctuary for a Christmas pageant rehearsal.

Today's bell schedule

1 BELL: 5 min before pageant rehearsal starts	2 BELLS: Start of rehearsal
1 BELL: 5 min before pageant rehearsal ends	2 BELLS: End of rehearsal*

***Parents, please pick up your children from the sanctuary.**