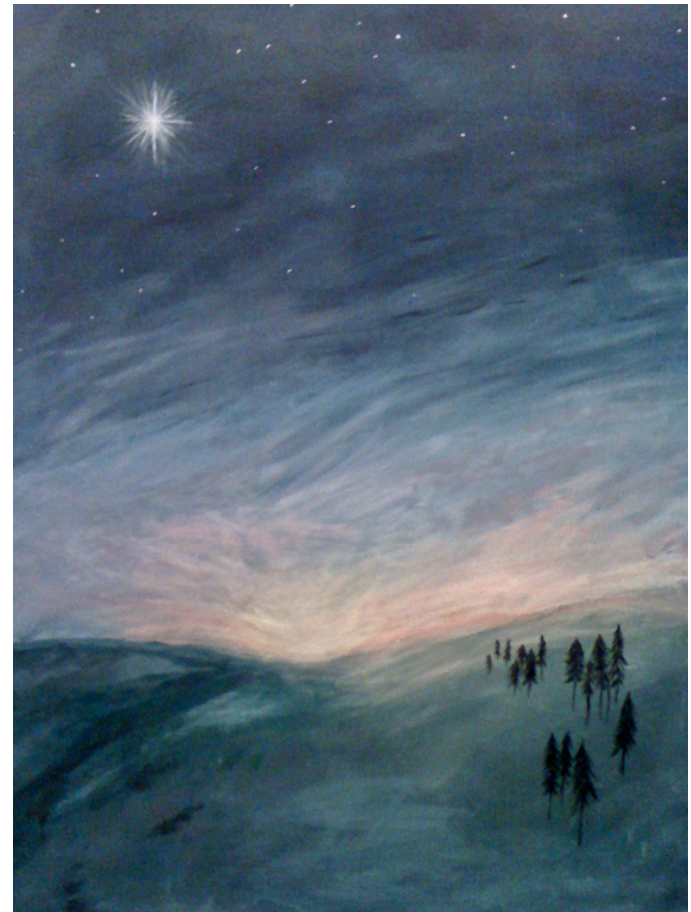

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER
328 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

Christmas Eve, 2011

7 p.m. Family Service



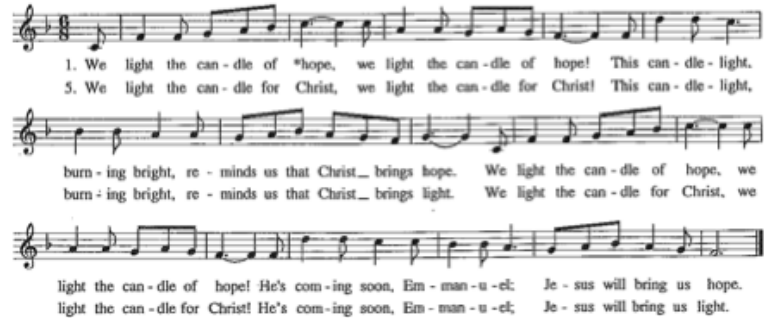
Painting by Chris Fraser

Prelude Dean Clemmer & Ryan Kauffman

Advent Candle Lighting Chris, Meghan, Lachlan and Keeghan McLane

Prayer
O God of hope and peace and joy and love,
from that stable so long ago
your light shines out into every corner of the world.
Help us to sing with the angels of the joy of your coming.
Help us to live by your light not only today,
but throughout the whole year,
so that the tidings of peace and goodwill to all
will truly transform everything. Amen.

Singing



1. We light the can - dle of *hope, we light the can - dle of hope! This can - dle - light.
5. We light the can - dle for Christ, we light the can - dle for Christ! This can - dle - light,
burn - ing bright, re - minds us that Christ_ brings hope. We light the can - dle of hope, we
burn - ing bright, re - minds us that Christ_ brings light. We light the can - dle for Christ, we
light the can - dle of hope! He's com - ing soon, Em - man - u - el; Je - sus will bring us hope.
light the can - dle for Christ! He's com - ing soon, Em - man - u - el; Je - sus will bring us light.

Welcome

Singing *Oh come, all ye faithful* HWB #212
Good Christian friends, rejoice HWB #210

Scripture Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Children's Time "Who is Gathering at the Manger?"

Music Dean Clemmer & Ryan Kauffman

Reflection

Singing *Oh little town of Bethlehem* HWB #191
Helpless and hungry STS #26

Scripture Luke 2: 8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Singing *Hark! the herald angels sing* HWB #201
Silent night, holy night HWB #193

Benediction

After the service everyone is welcome to gather in the Parrot Café for cookies, coffee and punch.

Worship Leader—Chad Martin
Song Leader—Christy Kauffman
Musicians—Dean Clemmer & Ryan Kauffman
Environment—Chris Fraser
Greeter—Susanne Mundok; Ushers—Kate Couturier, Wayne Martin