

April 7, 2024

“Building Holy Homes”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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SEASON OF EASTER

A very large stone was used to seal Jesus’ fate as just another tragically failed Messiah — dead, entombed, and soon forgotten. Yet it could not contain him nor the new questions that carries us into the Easter Season. The women wonder as they approach, "Who will move the stone for us?" The figures in dazzling apparel ask, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Perhaps the power of love can bring us new life!

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (John)

Call to Worship (Steve)

Opening Prayer (Steve)

Congregational Singing

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

All: Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

“Standing as a witness in all things means being kind in all things, being the first to say hello, being the first to smile, being the first to make the stranger feel a part of things, being helpful, thinking of others' feelings, being inclusive.”
— Margaret D. Nadauld

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: 1 John 1:1-9

1:1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our own eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — 2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you that this is the eternal life promised by God — true fellowship, with God and with Jesus Christ...

4 We are writing these things to you so that our joy may be complete. 5 This is the message we have

heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there can be no darkness at all.

6 We cannot have true fellowship with God and still walk in the darkness. But when we walk in God's light, we also have fellowship with one another because the work of Jesus cleanses us from all sin ... 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 But if we confess our sins, Jesus who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

SERMON: "Building Holy Homes!"



During Lent we heard first-hand about the power of love to change lives. These changed lives are now the living stones that God uses to build houses of true worship — Holy homes!

Like the writers of John's first letter, we too must declare what we have witnessed, for it holds the hope-filled promise to all life in its fullness. It is also the power of transformed lives that can build that true community that can save us all.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing
Response

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music (John)

Sending (Steve)

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I will love the light for it shows me the way, yet I will endure the darkness because it shows me the stars." — Og Mandino



"The whole point of the kingdom of God is Jesus has come to bear witness to the true truth, which is nonviolent. When God wants to take charge of the world, he doesn't send in the tanks. He sends in the poor and the meek."
— N. T. Wright