

# April 10, 2022 — Lent 6 (Palm Sunday): From power over to power with

*“Don't Wait Until You Die!”*

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FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

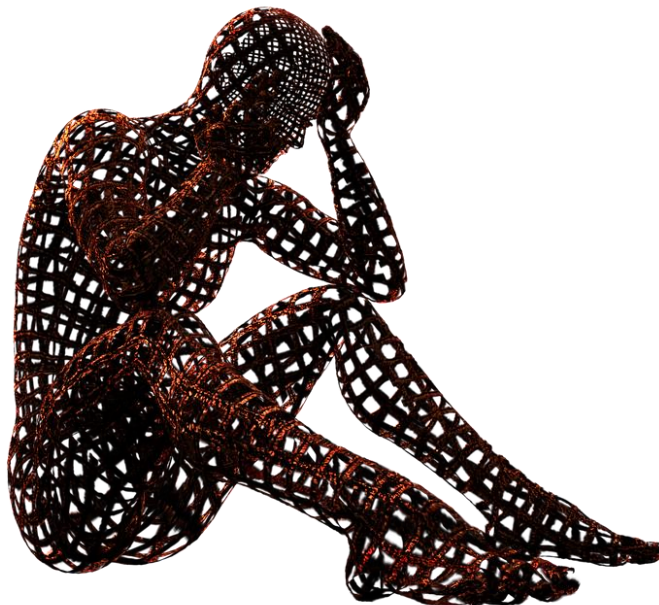
300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510

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*“The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon, but that we wait so long to begin it.” —Richard L. Evans*

## Season of Lent: Seeking God's Ways

Too often we think God offers one thing (privilege), but what God really offers looks quite different (inclusion); we think the world works one way (scarcity), but really it works a different way (abundance); we think power means one thing (control), but it is really found in something else (solidarity). Lent is a time to repent—to turn from our ways and recommit ourselves to the ways of God as revealed in Jesus.

**Today's Focus:** As we seek God's way, we move from an understanding of power that grasps for control over others to an understanding that true power comes from working with and for others in love.

## 1. GATHERING

### Musical Prelude (Stan)

### Call to Worship (Lynette)

Leader: Together we seek the way of God, a way so different from the ways of this world.

**People: We remind ourselves to loosen our grasp, to trust instead of control.**

Leader: We praise a God we cannot see and celebrate a salvation we do not understand.

**People: In worship we give of ourselves and we receive the disarming power of God.**

Leader: We cry:

**All: Blessed is the One who comes in the power of God's name.**

### Opening Song (Stan and everyone)

<b>Welcome and Passing of the Peace</b>	<b>Leader:</b> May the peace of Christ be with you. <b>People:</b> And also with you. <b>All:</b> Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.
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### Responsive Reading (John, Lynette, and Congregation)

Leader: Your ways, O God, are higher than our ways.

**People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.**

Leader: We seek God's ways.

**All: Lord, move us from seeking the power to control others to instead using power with them for everyone's healing and wholeness.**

### Lenten Prayer of Confession (John, Lynette, and Congregation)

Leader: Holy One, we seek you while you may be found.

**People: We call upon you while you are near.**

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, for our thoughts are not your thoughts and our ways are not your ways.

**People: Forgive us for seeking power over others and let us instead seek power with and for the most vulnerable.**

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey, let us see your way more clearly

**All: and follow your way more faithfully.**

### Prayer (Lynette)

We give thanks to you, O God, that our wisdom is not your wisdom, our ways are not your ways. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. The horse that led the victorious warrior got lost, while the donkey still knows the way. As children on our bikes, we learned that although our instincts tell us to hold on tight and try to turn when caught in a rut, a loose grip will guide us through. Gracious God, your way shows that all those who try to hold on tightly will fall, while all those who hold with the light hands of trust will stand together. Although we may feel rejected as Jesus was rejected, we trust that we stand together in your powerful love. Amen.

### Congregational Singing (Stan and everyone)

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD



**Scriptures: Isaiah 50:4-9a, I Corinthians 15:51-58**

**Sermon: "Don't Wait Until You Die!" (John)**

As we work to live out the gospel of grace, we are called to stand with the powerless. Our mission is guided by our hope to enable power with, not power over, all neighbors and friends of our community. Let us not be complacent in this call. Let's do it now, not wait until we are at the end. The Kingdom is here. Let's not wait till we die. Oh death, where is thy sting?

**Congregational Singing (Stan and everyone)**

**Response (everyone)**

**Joys and Concerns (everyone)**

**Offering (everyone)**

**Sending (John):** From this time and place into whatever awaits, may you follow God's way of empowerment. May you resist the temptation to hold power over others and learn to exercise power with others in love. As you go, know that our God of the wilderness goes with you on the way. Amen.

***"To live most authentically, we need to fear our complacency far more than we fear our discomfort and distress. — by Ezra Bayda***

***"Perhaps everything terrible is in its deepest being something helpless that wants help from us."***  
**—Rainer Maria Rilke**