

April 3, 2022 — Lent 5: From scarcity to abundance

“Ah, the Sweet Smell of Victory!”

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 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 the fear that there is not enough to the freedom of living within God's abundance.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (Geoff)

Call to Worship (Steve or Cathy)

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

People: who makes a way in the sea and provides rivers in the desert.

Leader: God fills our lives with love and beauty as sweet fragrance fills the air.

People: We live within the abundance of God,

Leader: so let us laugh and shout for joy

All: as we worship God together.

Opening Song (Geoff and everyone)

**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.

Responsive Reading (Steve or Cathy, 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 our scarcity mentality into your abundant life.

Lenten Prayer of Confession (Steve or Cathy, 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 believing the myth of scarcity. Help us live into your abundance.

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 (Steve or Cathy)

You have assured us, O God, that you make a path in the wilderness, a river in the desert. In the words of Scripture and the experiences of your people, over and over again the answer was always right under our nose, the provision was always there before we could see it. May we trust in the gifts that have been given. May we trust that they are enough, enough and overflowing to the point that they may pass through us like a river in the desert, like perfume over our Savior's feet. Even now the fragrance fills the air. May we breathe deeply your abundance.

"You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might also pray in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance." — Khalil Gibran

Congregational Singing (Geoff and everyone)

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD



Scriptures: John 12:1-11

Sermon: "Ah, the Sweet Smell of Victory!" (Steve)

There is incredible beauty inside each one of us. But we must break open the storehouse of beautiful aroma and let loose those creative juices we hold closed up inside. This is the only way to fill the rooms of power and chase away the stench of death. Thank God there are bold women like Mary to show us that better way!

Congregational Singing (Geoff and everyone)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering (everyone)

Sending (Steve): From this time and place into whatever awaits, may you follow God's way of abundance. May you recognize messages of scarcity as lies and open your eyes to the abundant life of God in this world. As you go, know that our God of the wilderness remains with you on the way.

"Whatever we are waiting for - peace of mind, contentment, grace, the inner awareness of simple abundance - it will surely come to us, but only when we are ready to receive it with an open and grateful heart." — Sarah Ban Breathnach