

**August 7, 2022**

***“Divine Friendship: Creating Intentional Community”***

**FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP**

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

**Worship:** 10:00 AM

**Pastor:** Steve Ramer

**Cell:** 970-412-7510



Welcoming the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in our congregations, we are liberated from a static understanding of the church, which often makes us allies of the status quo. As we open ourselves to the re-creating and animating power of the Holy Spirit, we become agents of healing and hope in the world.

## **1. GATHERING**

### **Musical Prelude**

#### **Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, come,

**People: come fill the hearts of your faithful.**

Leader: Come, Spirit of God, come, kindle in us the fire of your love,

**People: warm our hearts, and free us to act with kindness and care toward all humanity.**

Leader: Pour out your Spirit on your people, God of love,

**People: and we shall be revived, made anew in the image of Jesus.**

Leader: Come, gracious Spirit, come, guide and teach us,

#### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Opening Song**

**People: so that by your light we may walk in the way of Jesus.**

Leader: Spirit of the living God, anoint your children afresh,

**People: fill our spirits with unquenchable hope, bathe our hearts with unbounded love, and nourish our souls with your peace.**

**All: Reveal yourself within us, great Spirit of God, so that we may better see ourselves and more truly reflect your light and truth. Amen**

*"This (loving all) does not mean that you must know and love all human beings and creatures personally and individually. All you need to do is to be ready at all times to spread the light of friendly service over all living creatures you happen to contact. This requires mental effort and preparedness; in other words, unselfishness!" —Paramhansa Yogananda*

## 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.

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scriptures: John 15:12-17

12 This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is

doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last...

17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

### Sermon: "Divine Friendship: Creating Intentional Community" (Michael Gornik)



Polestar is an educational non-profit and a proposed intentional community in West Fort Collins. It seeks to create an environment conducive to physical, mental, and spiritual development of all its residents. Co-founder Michael Gornik shares Polestar's vision and his experiences from 40 years of living in spiritual community.

*"The work of community, love, reconciliation, restoration is the work we cannot leave up to politicians. This is the work we are all called to do."* — **Shane Claiborne**

*"Friendship is the purest love of all; in that love lies the potential to love the whole world. For true friendship is unconditional."*

*"Loving your family is just the first lesson in learning to love all humankind."* — **Paramhansa Yogananda**

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### a. Congregational Singing

### b. Response (everyone)

### e. Sending

Leader: Into a world filled with beauty and with suffering, the Spirit bids us go.

May the Spirit open your minds and hearts

**People: so that we do not miss the beauty or ignore the suffering;**

Leader: may the Spirit inspire you to let go of cynicism and indifference

**People: so that we become agents of forgiveness, grace, and God's reconciling love;**

Leader: may the Spirit anoint your eyes

**People: so that we may see the face of God in that of our neighbor;**

### c. Joys and Concerns (everyone)

### d. Offering & Music

Leader: may the Spirit fill you with God's love,

**People: enabling us to embrace all God's creatures;**

Leader: may the Spirit touch your lips

**People: so that we can speak words of peace, truth, and kindness;**

Leader: may the Spirit animate your hands

**People: so that we may reach out with compassion and care to all our neighbors.**

Leader: Go now, companioned by the God of wind and fire, and guided by the Spirit,

to be agents of healing and hope in all the places the Spirit leads you to go.

*"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."* — **Coretta Scott King**