

July 3, 2022

“Sell Your Cleverness and Buy Bewilderment!”

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 (Geoff)

Call to Worship (Cathy)

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

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.

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

“Life is passion, celebration in the face of chaos, light in the face of darkness, hope in the face of despair, and joy, for the universe without life feels nothing, is nothing, and does nothing except slowly die.” — Rick Tumlinson

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Revelations 3:20-22, 2 Corinthians 4:5-10 (Cathy)

Revelations 3:20 Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into you and eat with you, and you with me. **21** To the one who conquers, I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. **22** Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

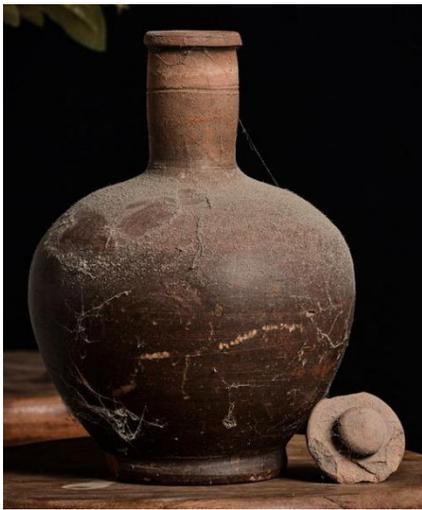
2 Corinthians 4:5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

6 For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **7** But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this.

8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; **10** always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

Sermon: "Sell Your Cleverness and Buy Bewilderment!" (Steve)



There are plenty of reasons to despair these days. But we do control a small corner of our world here at Oak and Matthews in Ft. Collins, CO. And, as Paul says, we are certainly an ugly clay jar that contains a treasure – an extraordinary power, not of our own making, but power that comes from God. It is the life Jesus promises us all, made visible in our broken body (the church).

"He who learns must suffer. And even in our sleep pain that cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, and in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God."
— Aeschylus

"We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live. We shall endure." — Cesar Chavez

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

a. Congregational Singing

b. Response (everyone)

e. Sending (Cathy)

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;

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

c. Joys and Concerns (everyone)

d. Offering & Music

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.