

July 17, 2022

*“Walking and Leaping and Praising God!”*

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 (Stan)

### Call to Worship (Lynette)

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**

*“The more generous we are, the more joyous we become. The more cooperative we are, the more valuable we become. The more enthusiastic we are, the more productive we become. The more serving we are, the more prosperous we become.”*

— **William Arthur Ward**

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scriptures: Acts 3, Acts 4 (Lynette)

**Acts 3:** 1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple.

3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. 4 Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk."

7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 All the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and they recognized him as the one who used to sit

and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

**Acts 4:** 1 While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, 2 much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. 3 So they arrested them and put them in custody...7 When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

### Sermon: "Walking and Leaping and Praising God!" (Steve)

None of us has enough "silver or gold" to meet each and every need of the poor. But we can generously give what we do have. And as we give, we learn that we really do have more than we first thought. We experience the power of God's love for us, expressed in the lives of the poor.

*"Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways, it can change someone else's life forever." — Margaret Cho*



## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### a. Congregational Singing

### b. Response (everyone)

### e. Sending (Lynette)

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.