

July 24, 2022

*“The Power of God Cannot be Bought!”*

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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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 (Cathy)

### 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

**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**

*“Power is of two kinds. One is obtained by the fear of punishment and the other by acts of love. Power based on love is a thousand times more effective and permanent than the one derived from fear of punishment.” — Mahatma Gandhi*

## 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: Acts 8:6-20 (Lynette)

**Acts 8:5** Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. 6 The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did... 9 Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria...

10 All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." ...

12 But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed...

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.

15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).

17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them some silver coins, 19 saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money!"

### Sermon: "The Power of God Cannot be Bought!" (Steve)



In this passage, Peter and John are comparing the power of God with silver and gold. God is calling us to a path that leads to transformation. God's gifts are abundant and free and cannot be bought, nor should they be sold. Sharing the gifts of God with the poor will create God's true community and we all will be changed.

*"All the forces in the world are not so powerful as an idea whose time has come."*  
— **Victor Hugo**

## 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.