

June 12, 2022

“The Purposes of the Holy Spirit”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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As we seek God’s way, we move from the confidence of knowing how things are to the unsettling openness of realizing God’s ways are beyond what we can imagine.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude

Call to Worship (Steve and 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

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*

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: Joel 2:1, 28–29; Luke 4:1-2, 16–20 (Steve & Cathy)

Joel 2: ¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near... ²⁸ Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

Luke 4: ¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was put to the test by the devil. He ate nothing during that whole time, and when it was all over he was famished. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as he typically did. He

Sermon: *“The Purposes of the Holy Spirit”* (Steve)



stood up to do the reading ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to announce pardon for the imprisoned and recovery of sight for those who are blind; to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s amnesty.”

²⁰ After rolling up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The attention of everyone in the synagogue was riveted on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture has come true while you listened.”

Welcoming the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in our congregations, we are liberated from a static understanding of the church, which too often inclines us to become 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.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing

Response (everyone)

Sending (Steve)

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;

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering (everyone)

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.

