

March 13, 2022 — Lent 2: From Fear to Compassion

“A Fox in the Henhouse!”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



Season of Lent: Seeking God's Ways

Too often we think God offers one thing (privilege), but what God really offers looks quite different (inclusion); we think the world works one way (scarcity), but really it works a different way (abundance); we think power means one thing (control), but it is really found in something else (solidarity). Lent is a time to repent—to turn from our ways and recommit ourselves to the ways of God as revealed in Jesus.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude

Call to Worship

- Leader: Together we seek the way of God.
- **People: As disappointment oppresses and violence threatens,**
- Leader: we come to ask: Whom shall we fear?
- **People: We come to be reminded of God's power and to be led more deeply into God's love.**
- Leader: We long to gather under the wings of Christ, as a mother hen,
- **All: and to learn the holy way of compassion.**



Opening Song

Responsive Reading

Leader: Your ways, O God, are higher than our ways.

People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

Leader: We seek God's ways.

All: Lord, move us from our ways of clinging to security to your ways of generous living.

Lenten Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy One, we seek you while you may be found.

People: We call upon you while you are near.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, for our thoughts are not your thoughts and our ways are not your ways.

People: Forgive us for seeking security. Lead us into your way of generosity.

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey, let us see your way more clearly

All: and follow your way more faithfully.

Prayer

God, you are our light and our salvation. You are the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid?

We seek a home in you. We seek a heart of curiosity. We seek an eye for beauty. Grounded in you, sheltered by your wings, you reveal a world unfolding in layers of love. Though we will suffer in the journey before us, our consent to your way of compassion makes us strong. Continue to gather and release, O God, as we peck out our path. Amen.

Congregational Singing

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Luke 13: 31-35

Sermon: "A Fox in the Henhouse!"



A fox is on the prowl, but a hen will never leave her nest; she is willing to die to save her brood. Like a fox, Herod is on the prowl to eliminate any perceived threat to his own power and wealth. He is cunning and ruthless and strikes fear in the hearts of those whom he seeks to devour. But that is not the way of God. God's way is a gentle and loving invitation to the safety and warmth of her bosom. God's way turns fear into compassion.

Congregational Singing

Response

Joys and Concerns

Offering

Sending: From this time and place into whatever

awaits, may you follow God's way of compassion. May the embrace of Jesus ease your fears and encourage you to care for others. As you go, know that our God of the wilderness remains with you on the way.

"If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men." -- Francis of Assisi

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." — Franklin D. Roosevelt