March 27, 2022 — Lent 4: From Violence to Non-violence

"How do You Stop a War?"

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.

Today's Focus: God's way is upsides down and backwards sometimes. Jesus calls us to love our enemies and to respond to those who seek to hurt us with radical non-violence.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (John

Call to Worship (Katie

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

People: rejoicing that we are new creations in Christ.

Leader: From a human point of view, we demand what is ours,

People: but through Jesus we learn that all share in God's inheritance.

Leader: Let us join God's feast,

People: where all celebrate together.

All: Let us live out God's way of inclusion.

Opening Song (John, Cathy, and everyone)

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.

Responsive Reading (Katie and Congregation)

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

People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

One: We seek God's ways. (*Pause to consider those times where you did not choose God's path*)

All: Lord, move us from our tribal thinking to your radical inclusion.

Lenten Prayer of Confession (Katie and Congregation)

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 thinking we deserve special treatment. Lead us to radical inclusion.

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey,

let us see your way more clearly

All: and follow your way more faithfully.
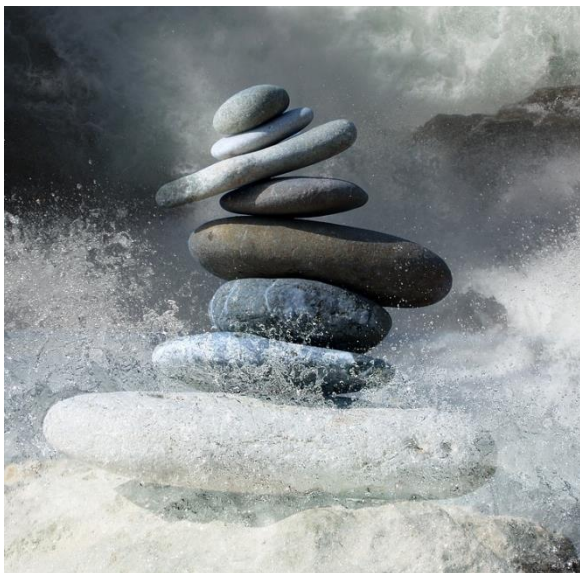
Prayer (Katie)

You who open doors and dismantle barriers, open our hearts to praise you, that we might live the full truth of who we are, that we might live as neighbors and friends, no longer strangers and enemies; open our hearts to the transforming power of your love, that we might forgive and reconcile, making peace and learning war no more. That we might be your people, one body in one Spirit, to tell your grace to all the world. We pray in the name of the One who walked among us as brother and friend. Amen.

Congregational Singing (John, Cathy, and everyone)

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Luke 6:27-31, Matthew 10:34-39

Sermon: *"How Do You Stop a War?"* (Steve)

As we witness the horrendous brutality of war, what are practical ways to follow the non-violent way of the God of Peace?

Congregational Singing (John, Cathy, and everyone)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering (everyone)

Sending (Steve): Go forth in peace, and be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the God who fills the hungry with good things fill us all with Christlike love and with a consuming hunger for justice in our land and in our world. Amen.

"Fear is the great enemy of intimacy. Fear makes us run away from each other or cling to each other, but does not create true intimacy." — Henri Nouwen

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Anger is the enemy of non-violence and pride is a monster that swallows it up." — Mahatma Gandhi

"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner." — Nelson Mandela