

March 6, 2022 — Lent 1: From Security to Generosity

“Please, Can We Have a Little Sympathy for the Devil?”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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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: through the wilderness of Lent, through the wilderness of life.**
- Leader: We crave the safety of God's shelter,
- **People: the cool comfort of the divine shadow, the security of the holy fortress.**
- Leader: God offers the care of angels,
- **People: the gentleness of creation, the protection of love.**
- Leader: God is generous to all who call on the holy name,
- **All: So come, let us seek God's way of generosity.**

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

When the fruit from the soil springs forth and ripens, and the laughing trees seem to bow before us, may we remember that a wandering Aramean was our ancestor. May we remember that the earth is yours, O God, and that our dwelling place is only a tent. Our security is in you and your way. May your winds rattle our walls and shake our false sense of security. May we walk with Jesus as we seek your way while he turns from the temptation to rule the world and turns toward those who cry out in their affliction, toil, and oppression. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Congregational Singing

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: *"Please, Can We Have a Little Sympathy for the Devil?"*



Sometimes I think we give the devil a bit too much credit. Sure, he can be quite persuasive but can he really make us do anything we don't want? According to scripture, the devil is a liar - he can't help himself. The best way to stand up to Satan then is to focus on the truths in scripture. The best way to resist evil is simply to do what is good.

As we seek God's way, we move from prioritizing our personal security to living with generosity toward our neighbors.

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION: What are you holding on to tightly that can now be released, freeing you to be generous?

Congregational Singing

Response

Joys and Concerns

Offering

Sending

From this time and place into whatever awaits, may you follow God's way of generosity. May you release whatever you hold in fear, so that you may be free to live generous lives. As you go, know that our God of the wilderness remains with you on the way.

