

May 15, 2022

*“Strange Worship: Resisting White Christian Nationalism
Part 2-Lament, Break Silence, Name, Preach Jesus, and Resist”*

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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Theme for Easter: 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 (John)

Call to Worship (Lynette)

Prayer of Lament (Lynette)

We name you king, Lord, sovereign.

We trust you, except sometimes we do not.

We take matters into our own hands.

We fashion power and authority and sovereignty;
enforced by law and bureaucracy and weapons,
we think to make ourselves safe.

And then learn, staggeringly, how insufficient is
our product, how thin is our law, how ineffective is
our bureaucracy, how impotent our weapons.

We are driven back to you — your will, your
purpose, your requirements: care for land, care for
neighbors, care for future.

We name you king, Lord, sovereign— so
undemocratic. And in naming, become aware of
our status before you . . . loved, sent, summoned.

We pray in the name of the loved, sent,
summoned Jesus. **Amen**

Opening Song (Cathy and all)

**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 (Cathy and Steve)

Matthew 28:16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?"

8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome

11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

"We call an obsession with having someone's approval 'co-dependency;' the Bible's word for it is idolatry. A country can be an idol." — John Ortberg

Sermon: "Strange Worship: Resisting White Christian Nationalism Part 2 - Lament, Break Silence, Name, Preach Jesus, and Resist" (Steve)



If White Christian Nationalism presents an immediate threat, what can we do about it? Drew Strait, Ass't Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at AMBS, proposes a multi-step approach to counter the political idolatry – the form of "strange worship" -- that is the White Christian Nationalism movement.

"A multicultural society does not reject the culture of the other but is prepared to listen, to see, to dialogue and, in the final analysis, to possibly accept the other's culture without compromising its own." — Reuven Rivlin

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (all)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering (everyone)

Sending (Steve)