

May 8, 2022

“Strange Worship: White Christian Nationalism as Political Idolatry!”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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“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

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 (Geoff)

Call to Worship (Cathy and Steve)

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: Together we seek the way of God—

Group 1: the generous,

Group 2: compassionate,

Group 1: grace-filled,

Group 2: inclusive,

Group 1: abundant,

Group 2: powerful,

Group 1: unsettling,

All: way of God.

Leader: On this day that God has made,

may our hearts be open to the good news:

Christ is not here, for he is risen.

All: Jesus Christ is risen indeed!

Opening Song (Stan 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.

Prayer (Steve)

Congregational Singing (Geoff)

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures (Cathy and Steve)

Deuteronomy 17:14 - 20

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me," you may indeed set over you a king whom the Lord your God will choose. One of your own community, you may set as king over you...

Even so, he must not acquire many horses for himself... And he must not acquire many wives for himself... also silver and gold he must not acquire in great quantity for himself.

When he has taken the throne of his kingdom, he shall have a copy of this law written for him in the presence of the Levitical priests. It shall remain with him and he shall read it every day for the rest of his life, so that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, diligently observing all the words of this law and these statutes,

"The doctrine of blind obedience and unqualified submission to any human power, whether civil or ecclesiastical, is the doctrine of despotism, and ought to have no place among Republicans and Christians. — Angelina Grimke

neither exalting himself above other members of the community nor turning aside from the commandment...

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees got the news that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they too conspired against him.

So, they sent one of their lawyers, to test him with this question:

"Teacher, which commandment in God's Law is the greatest?"

Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This commandment is first and foremost. But the next one is just as important: 'You are to love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hangs everything that is in God's Law and in the Prophets' commands."



Sermon: "Strange Worship: White Christian Nationalism as Political Idolatry!" (Steve)

White Christian Nationalism presents an immediate threat not only for democracy in the US but also to the church's public witness. In order to effectively confront White Christian Nationalism we must understand it as an idolatrous form of true Christian Faith.

Idolatry: An object of power that coopts our theological imagination and distorts our knowledge of God, and ultimately leads to strange worship.

"We're blind to our blindness. We have very little idea of how little we know. We're not designed to know how little we know."
— Daniel Kahneman

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Geoff and everyone)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering (everyone)

Sending (Steve)