

November 13, 2022

“For Heaven's Sake”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



Welcoming the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in our congregations, we are liberated from a static understanding of the church, which often makes us allies of the status quo. As we open ourselves to the re-creating and animating power of the Holy Spirit, we become agents of healing and hope in the world.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (Stan)

Call to Worship (Liz)

Leader: What will you offer the body of Christ today?

People: Bring all that you have. Bring all that you are.

Leader: The gifts of silence and the gifts of words are welcome.

People: The gifts of leading and the gifts of following are welcome.

Leader: The gifts of doubt and the gifts of faith are welcome.

Opening Prayer (Liz)

Opening Song (Stan)

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.

People: The gifts of the head and the gifts of the heart are welcome.

Leader: The gifts of planning and the gifts of spontaneity are welcome.

People: May all that we are as individuals come together to strengthen the living body of the church, Christ Incarnate.

“Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.” — Henry David Thoreau

“To see a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wildflower, hold infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an hour.” — William Blake

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-8, Revelation 21:1-4, Luke 17:20-21 (Liz)

Genesis 1: ¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

Revelation 21: ¹Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Luke 17: ²⁰Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, ²¹nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."

SERMON: "For Heaven's Sake" (John)



Our beliefs and thoughts about Heaven have come largely from orthodox dogma of the organized church. Unfortunately, that dogma has been shaped by interests of power, money, and control. John invites us to enter into the complete mystery of the Biblical vision of Heaven. From Genesis to Revelation, there is a comprehensive and inclusive vision of Heaven that demands a spirit of hope seldom appreciated. We should at least inquire, for Heaven's sake!

"Heaven means to be one with God." — Confucius

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Stan)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Stan)

Sending (all)

Christ has no body now on earth but ours.
Ours are the only hands with which Christ can do his work,
Ours are the only feet with which Christ can go about the world,
Ours are the only eyes through which Christ's compassion can shine forth on a troubled world.
Christ has no body on earth now but ours.

"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth." — Charles Spurgeon