

# November 27, 2022: First Sunday of Advent

## *“Wake Up! Our Restoration Is Now!”*

**FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP**

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

**Worship:** 10:00 AM

**Pastor:** Steve Ramer

**Cell:** 970-412-7510



**ADVENT THEME:** Advent means “coming” and it is an active season. The primary actor is God, born in human likeness, into a real world. But the created world has its share of action with dramatic stories of angel visits, forced relocation, homelessness, and harrowing life and death escapes. We too are active as we long for light, seek hope, and try to restore a broken world. Together we cry out for restoration, watch for this restoration to take place, and join in God’s restorative process with all creation.

### 1. GATHERING

#### Musical Prelude (John)

#### Reading of Lament (based on Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19)

Listen up God, you who claims to be our Good Shepherd.  
Get up, do something, use your mighty arm to save us!  
Restore us, O God; show your face; we really need help!  
God, are you angry with us?  
You seem to satisfy our hunger with the bread of sorrow  
and our thirst with our tears.  
Politicians accuse us of “grooming” children.  
The police gun us down even though we’re unarmed.

#### Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 2:1-5)

**Reader 1:** The word of God that Isaiah, the crazy son of Amoz, was compelled to shout from the roof tops:

**Reader 2:** “Soon God’s house will be established on the top of the highest mountain, it shall be high above the hills, visible to everyone and folks from every nation will stream to it.

**People:** All kinds of folks will gather and say, “Come on, giddy up, let’s climb that mountain, let’s crowd that house of God so that the Divine Creator of all may teach us the true way.”

And since gun ownership is a sacrament, we feel hunted.  
Restore us, O God of hope; may the light that shines from your face save us.

May your hand upon us chase away our fears!  
Your ever presence with us will make us strong.  
Restore us, O LORD God of justice; the light that shines from your face will save us!

**Reader 2:** For it is the Divine Lover who is the final judge, it is the God of justice and peace who can truly restore, renew, and reconcile.

**People:** Then the people of every nation will melt down their assault rifles to make garden tools and will convert their aircraft carriers into floating hospitals, and all those unnecessary military bases will be turned into solar farms.

**Reader 1:** O house of Menno, located in Ft. Collins CO, The Light of the Lord has come into your world, so be sure to walk in that light!

## Opening Song (John and Cathy)

### 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: Romans 13:11-14

**13:11** Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on

the armor of light; 13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ . . .

### SERMON: "Wake Up! Our Restoration is Now!" (Steve)



This First Sunday of Advent, let's keep alert and expect restoration. We need restoration, awaiting Christ's coming in our time, just as the world has always waited for Divine incarnation. Expecting restoration, we then live as restored people.

Where is our community earnestly longing for restoration? What is our role in that context of brokenness?

*"Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." —Psalm 80:3*

*"Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." —James 5:8*

*"Letting go helps us to live in a more peaceful state of mind and helps restore our balance. It allows others to be responsible for themselves and for us to take our hands off situations that do not belong to us. This frees us from unnecessary stress."  
— Melody Beattie*

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Congregational Singing (John and Cathy)

### Response (everyone)

### Joys and Concerns (everyone)

### Offering & Music (John)

### Sending (all)

Wake up! You know what time it is. The night is long gone and it's time to get up! The flame of God's love has come to dwell with in us! So let this restorative light burn brightly into a cold and dark world that is in desperate need of it!

*"America's present need is not heroics but healing; not nostrums but normalcy; not revolution but restoration."  
— Warren G. Harding*

*"The work of community, love, reconciliation, restoration is the work we cannot leave up to politicians. This is the work we are all called to do." — Shane Claiborne*