

November 6, 2022

*“True Freedom”*

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 (Skyler)

### Call to Worship (Steve)

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 (Steve)

### Opening Song (Skyler)

### 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.**

*“Every human has four endowments – self-awareness, conscience, independent will and creative imagination. These give us the ultimate human freedom... The power to choose, to respond, to change.” — Stephen Covey*

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scriptures: John 8:3--47 (selected verses)

John 8:30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him. 31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

...36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

37 I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word.

38 I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father."

...45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

...47 Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God."

### SERMON: "True Freedom" (Steve)



What is the source of true freedom? In the time period up to this week's election, we heard a lot about various ideas on what makes us free. Jesus makes the claim that, "the truth will set us free!" So what is truth? What "truths" set us free? How do these truths affect the way we vote?

*"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." — Nelson Mandela*

*"The choice that frees or imprisons us is the choice of love or fear. Love liberates. Fear imprisons." — Gary Zukav*

*"Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth." — Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Congregational Singing (Skyler)

### Response (everyone)

### Joys and Concerns (everyone)

### Offering & Music (Skyler)

### 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.

### Potluck and Budget Meeting

*"There are two freedoms - the false, where a man is free to do what he likes; the true, where he is free to do what he ought" — Charles Kingsley*

*"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves; and under the rule of a just God, cannot long retain it." — Abraham Lincoln*

