

October 9, 2022

“For Such A Time as This!”

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 (Cathy and Arizona)

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 (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.

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.

*“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”
— Reinhold Niebuhr*

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Esther 4:6-17 (Steve)

6 So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. 7 Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. 8 He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

9 Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, 11 "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned, the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house, you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

SERMON: "For Such A Time as This!" (John)



We find ourselves immersed in awareness of conflict, human need, and social challenges. The awareness is often overwhelming. So it was for the Jews in the story about Queen Esther.

I wonder what it is that we are here to do in these times? Whether our challenge is in our family, or community, or within ourselves; perhaps we are placed here for a purpose to impact, to alter, to change -- for such a time as this.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." — Mahatma Gandhi

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

a. Congregational Singing (Cathy and all)

b. Response (everyone)

c. Joys and Concerns (everyone)

d. Offering & Music (Cathy)

e. Sending

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.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." — Barack Obama

"You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life." — Zig Ziglar