

September 18, 2022

*“Community and the Salvation of the World!”*

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 (John)

### Call to Worship (Lynette)

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

### Opening Song (Cathy and John)

### 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.**

*“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” — Coretta Scott King*

*“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.” — Anthony J. D'Angelo*

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (Lynette)

1 Corinthians 12:12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

15 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

16 And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

19 If all were a single member, where would the body be?

20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable...

25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.

26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

### SERMON: "Community and the Salvation of the World!" (Steve)



Several decades ago, M. Scott Peck made the audacious comment, "In and through community is the salvation of the world. Nothing is more important." Existing as the Trinity, God is in essence, a community. A flow or "dance" of connection, love and unity through diversity. "

*"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

*"Empathy is the starting point for creating a community and taking action. It's the impetus for creating change."* — Max Carver

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### a. Congregational Singing (Cathy and John)

### b. Response (everyone)

### c. Joys and Concerns (everyone)

### d. Offering & Music (John)

### e. Sending

Christ has no body now on earth but yours;  
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.

*"Jesus was a radical nonviolent revolutionary who hung around with lepers, hookers, and crooks; wasn't American and never spoke English; was anti-wealth, anti-death penalty, and anti-public prayer; but was never anti-gay, never mentioned abortion or birth control, never called the poor lazy, never justified torture, never fought for tax cuts for the wealthiest Nazarenes, never asked a leper for a copay; and was a long-haired, brown-skinned, homeless community-organizing, anti-slut-shaming, Middle Eastern Jew."*

— John Fugelsand