

September 25, 2022

“A Firm Foundation and Ongoing Struggle”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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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 (Katie)

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 (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.

“It is not the beauty of a building you should look at; it’s the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time.” — David Allan Coe

“Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 3:10-14 (Katie)

1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—

13 the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done.

14 If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward.

SERMON: "A Firm Foundation and Ongoing Struggle" (Keith)



Today we continue with the ongoing persecution of the Anabaptists, now in the north of Europe. We examine another reformer's struggle to justify his adult understanding with the teachings of his youth, and one country's change from a focal point of Anabaptist martyr-ism to an Anabaptist haven.

"For true evangelical faith is of such a nature that it cannot lie dormant; but manifests itself in all righteousness and works of love; it dies unto flesh and blood; destroys all forbidden lusts and desires; cordially seeks, serves and fears God; clothes the naked;

feeds the hungry; consoles the afflicted; shelters the miserable; aids and consoles all the oppressed; returns good for evil; serves those that injure it; prays for those that persecute it; teaches, admonishes and reproveth with the Word of the Lord; seeks that which is lost; binds up that which is wounded; heals that which is diseased and saves that which is sound. The persecution, suffering and anxiety which befalls it for the sake of the truth of the Lord, is to it a glorious joy and consolation." — Menno Simon (1593)

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

a. Congregational Singing (Stan)

b. Response (everyone)

c. Joys and Concerns (everyone)

d. Offering & Music (Stan)

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.

"Humility is the solid foundation of all virtues."

— Confucius

"A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him."

— David Brinkley