

September 3, 2022

“We All Rely On the Random Kindness Of Strangers!”

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 (Cathy and Steve)

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, come,

People: come fill the hearts of your faithful.

Leader: Come, Spirit of God, come, kindle in us the fire of your love,

People: warm our hearts, and free us to act with kindness and care toward all humanity.

Leader: Pour out your Spirit on your people, God of love,

People: and we shall be revived, made anew in the image of Jesus.

Leader: Come, gracious Spirit, come, guide and teach us,

Opening Prayer

Opening Song

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: so that by your light we may walk in the way of Jesus.

Leader: Spirit of the living God, anoint your children afresh,

People: fill our spirits with unquenchable hope, bathe our hearts with unbounded love, and nourish our souls with your peace.

All: Reveal yourself within us, great Spirit of God, so that we may better see ourselves and more truly reflect your light and truth. Amen

“Whether one believes in a religion or not, and whether one believes in rebirth or not, there isn't anyone who doesn't appreciate kindness and compassion.” — Dalai Lama

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Proverbs 20:20-21, Micah 6:8, Colossians 3:12-15 (Cathy and Steve)

Proverbs 21:20 Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool devours it.

21 Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life and honor.

Micah 6: 8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Colossians 3:12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

SERMON: "We All Rely On the Random Kindness Of Strangers!" (Steve)



A random act of kindness is a non-premeditated, inconsistent action, designed to offer kindness toward the outside world. The phrase "practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty" was written by Anne Herbert on a placemat in Sausalito, California in 1982.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." — Aesop

"Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver." — Barbara De Angelis

"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love." — Lao Tzu

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

a. Congregational Singing

b. Response (everyone)

e. Sending

Leader: Into a world filled with beauty and with suffering, the Spirit bids us go.

May the Spirit open your minds and hearts

People: so that we do not miss the beauty or ignore the suffering;

Leader: may the Spirit inspire you to let go of cynicism and indifference

People: so that we become agents of forgiveness, grace, and God's reconciling love;

Leader: may the Spirit anoint your eyes

People: so that we may see the face of God in that of our neighbor;

c. Joys and Concerns (everyone)

d. Offering & Music (John)

Leader: may the Spirit fill you with God's love,

People: enabling us to embrace all God's creatures;

Leader: may the Spirit touch your lips

People: so that we can speak words of peace, truth, and kindness;

Leader: may the Spirit animate your hands

People: so that we may reach out with compassion and care to all our neighbors.

Leader: Go now, companioned by the God of wind and fire, and guided by the Spirit, to be agents of healing and hope in all the places the Spirit leads you to go.