

April 16, 2023
"The Original 13"

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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Painting by Henry Inman, Independence National Historical Park.

EASTER SEASON 2023: LIVING THE RESURRECTION, FULLY ALIVE IN CHRIST!

During Lent we explored some of the things that make us "truly human." The season of Easter began early on the morning of Easter Sunday and it brings forward a new call — to become truly human, face to face with the totally unexpected, simply mind-boggling, and truly life changing power of Christ that now lives within each of us.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (Stan)

Call to Worship (Steve)

L: Fleeing persecution; incarceration, torture, slavery and death at the fiery stake, they arrived on distant shores, seeking peace and permission to live as peaceful people.

P: Thank you God for preserving our ancestors through the wilderness of darkness and despair.

L: Into the land of the Delaware, Lenape, and Susquehannock peoples they came carrying little to nothing, but where they found streams that flowed clean, woodlands full of game and deep dark soil for their plows to turn.

P: Forgive us and our ancestors for not fully understanding the full costs of such bounty.

Opening Prayer (Steve)

L: But not only did we manage to survive, we thrived in both the freedom to worship and to accumulate vast amounts of material goods.

P: Help us oh God not to forget your commandments and to share your bounty with all.

L: And for those of us who at this moment gather on the ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute Nations...

ALL: Help us to honor you by continuing to seek your true peace that only comes when we seek justice for all who now live in this land.

Congregational Singing (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.

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:6

Deuteronomy 8:6 Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in those ways.

7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills,

8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey,

9 a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.

10 You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that has been given to you.

SERMON: "The Original 13" (Keith)

Keith discusses the original 13 German families (Mennonite and Quaker) who settled in Penn's Colony just one year after Penn arrived . . . and what happened after they arrived.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Stan)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Stan)

Sending - Eagle Poem by Joy Harjo

To pray you open your whole self
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you can't see, can't hear;
Can't know except in moments steadily growing, and
in languages that aren't always sound but other
Circles of motion.
Like eagle that Sunday morning Over Salt River.
Circled in blue sky In wind, swept our hearts clean
With sacred wings.
We see you, see ourselves and know that we must
take the utmost care And kindness in all things.
Breathe in, knowing we are made of All this, and
breathe, knowing

"The dominant characteristic of an authentic spiritual life is the gratitude that flows from trust - not only for all the gifts that I receive from God, but gratitude for all the suffering. Because in that purifying experience, suffering has often been the shortest path to intimacy with God."

— Brennan Manning

11 Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep all the commandments, ordinances, and statutes, which I am commanding you today. 12 When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, 15 and who led you through the great and terrible wilderness . . .



"Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude." — Denis Waitley

We are truly blessed because we were born, and die soon within a True circle of motion,
Like eagle rounding out the morning Inside us.
We pray that it will be done
In beauty.
In beauty.