

April 23, 2023

“Living out Easter: The Power of Forgiveness”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



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 (John)

Call to Worship: #903A (Lynette)

Do not fear, says God.
I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name;
You are mine.
God is doing a new thing;
Now it springs forth!
By the grace of Jesus Christ,
We are forgiven! Amen

Congregational Singing (all)

Passing of the Peace: #909 (Lynette)

Hear the words of Jesus:
“Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
And do not let them be afraid.”
Now we share a sign of peace with one another.

Opening Prayer: #907 (Lynette)

May the Love
Which overcomes all differences,
Which heals all wounds,
Which put to flight all fears,
Which reconciles all who are separated,
Be in us and among us,
Now and always.

“I believe forgiveness is the best form of love in any relationship. It takes a strong person to say they're sorry and an even stronger person to forgive.” — Yolanda Hadid

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: John 20:19-28

John 10:19 When Sunday evening finally arrived, the doors of the house where Jesus' disciples were hiding were locked out of fear that the authorities would find them. Jesus came to them and stood among them and said, "Peace be upon you."

20 Then he showed them his hands and his side and the disciples rejoiced then when they saw their Lord.

21 Then Jesus greeted them a second time, "Peace be upon you. Just like the Father sent me, so now I am sending you."

22 He then breathed over them and said, "Breathe in some Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone their sins, they are forgiven, but if you do not release them from their sins, they are will remain captives."

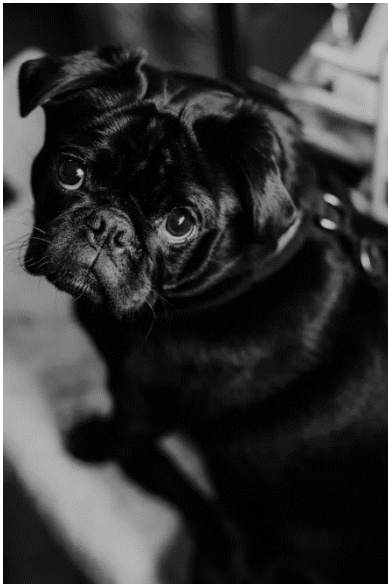
24 But Thomas (aka, "the Twin"), also one of the twelve, hadn't been there when Jesus had appeared

to the rest. 25 So the other disciples were telling him, "We have seen the Lord."

But his response was, "Unless I see the holes made by the nails and stick my finger in them and put my hand in his side, I'll never believe."

26 Then a week later Jesus' disciples were again gathered indoors and Thomas was with them this time. Like before, the doors were locked shut and Jesus came again and stood among them and said, "Peace be upon you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Stick your finger into the nail holes in my hands. Reach out and put your hand into the sword wound on my side. Stop being so skeptical and live like a believer."

28 Thomas exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!"



SERMON: "Living out Easter: The Power of Forgiveness" (Steve)

We too are now capable of being resurrected and to live out this resurrection by becoming fully alive in Christ!

Easter is just the beginning of a reality of becoming new people. This morning we look specifically at the power of forgiveness in bringing about true peace

*"Acceptance and tolerance and forgiveness, those are life-altering lessons."
— Jessica Lange*

*"I can have peace of mind only when I forgive rather than judge"
— Gerald Jampolsky*

"I remember everything but forgive anyway." — Erica Jong

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (all)

Response (all)

Joys and Concerns (all)

Offering & Music (John)

Sending: #909 (Steve)

Go forgives you.

Forgive others.

Forgive yourself.

(silence)

Be at peace.



"If you haven't forgiven yourself something, how can you forgive others?" — Dolores Huerta

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you."

—Lewis B. Smedes