

February 26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent: "To Be Human is to Be (Re)Created in the Image of God!"

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



LENTEN THEME: Becoming authentically human is first and foremost about what God is doing. But we need to ask ourselves, what does it mean to be images of the God who created us? What does it mean to be reshaped into the image of the Son of God who, with unparalleled authenticity, lived, died, and lives anew in our true humanity? We are surrounded by a host of pressures that would squeeze and contort us into less-than-human. Lent is a season to release that pressure and to repent (turn from) all that would distort and reduce our humanity.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (Stan)

Call to Worship - #1040 (Katie)

Opening Prayer (Katie)

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.

"The opposite of faith is not doubt: It is certainty. It is madness. You can tell you have created God in your own image when it turns out that he or she hates all the same people you do." — Anne Lamott

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Genesis 1:26-27, 2:15-17; 3:1-5; Matthew 4:1-11

Genesis 1:26-27, 2:15-17; 3:1-5

1:26 Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness..." 27 So God created two humans, in the image of God they were created; male and female.

2:15 Then the LORD God took the humans and put them in the garden of Eden to nurture and care for it. 16 And the LORD God commanded them, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal... saying to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden... or you shall die.'"

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Matthew 4:1-11

4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus replied, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Jesus said, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God.'"



SERMON: "To Be Human is to Be (Re)Created in the Image of God!" (Steve)

In the opening chapters of Genesis, we are told that humans are made in the image (a photo, video, concept, semblance, incarnation, apparition or statue) of God! Being the image of God is an essential component of authentic humanness. Fortunately, in and through Jesus, the contagion that has fatally damaged authentic humanity can be reversed.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Music (everyone)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Stan)

Sending - #1065 (Steve)

Whatever wilderness the Spirit
Has brought you to:

Walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God;
Walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High;
Walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.

Amen

"Our subconscious minds have no sense of humor, play no jokes and cannot tell the difference between reality and an imagined thought or image. What we continually think about eventually will manifest in our lives."

— Robert Collier

"We are Jesus Christ's; we belong to him. But even more, we are increasingly him. He moves in and commandeers our hands and feet, requisitions our minds and tongues. We sense his rearranging: debris into the divine, pig's ear into silk purse. He repurposes bad decisions and squalid choices. Little by little, a new image emerges." — Max Lucado