

February 5, 2023

“The Arc is Long! But It Bends”

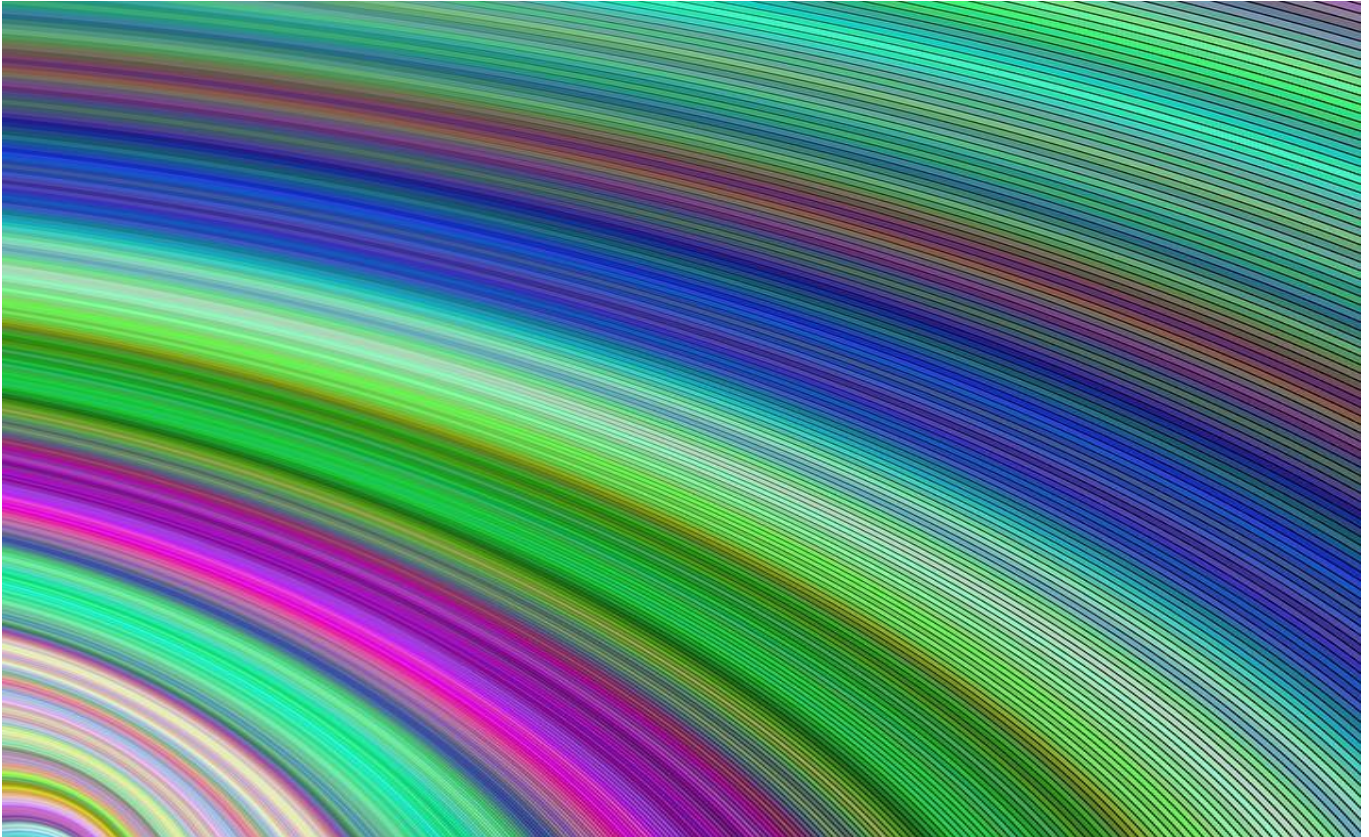
FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



“The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice.” — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

EPIPHANY THEME: Just like those ancient astronomers, we too, together, now leave the cave of Christ’s birth “reborn.” We are born again to join in with our God’s restorative process within all of creation! So, “Arise and shine, for your light has come!” The world desperately needs all the light it can get!

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (Stan)

Call to Worship: #1044 (Cathy)

Opening Prayer: #854 - from *Voices Together* hymn book (Steve)

Congregational Singing (Cathy)

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.

“It is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence in this world; it's nonviolence or nonexistence.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Anger is the enemy of non-violence and pride is a monster that swallows it up.” — Mahatma Gandhi

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: John 14:1, 7, 12, and 27

John 14: 1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

27 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.

SERMON: "The Arc is Long! But It Bends" (Steve)



Once again an unarmed black man is brutally killed by law enforcement. Within days, two mass shootings occur among two different Asian communities in California.

With events like these, it's hard not to fall into despair and cynicism by the seemingly unending barrage of the images of such violence. How do we keep from becoming so "used" to those events that we become indifferent? Or so traumatized that we become overly fearful and despondent?

3. RESPONDING TO GOD

Congregational Singing (Stan)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Stan)

Sending - #906 (Steve)

May the Love

which overcomes all differences,
which heals all wounds,
which puts to flight all fears,
which reconciles all who are separated,

be in us and among us

now and always.

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history. — Mahatma Gandhi