

January 8, 2023: Epiphany Sunday

"Epiphany Light and New Year Resolutions!"

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



ADVENT THEME: Advent means “coming” and it is an active season. The primary actor is God, born in human likeness, into a real world. But the created world has its share of action too, with dramatic stories of angelic visits, forced relocations, homelessness and harrowing life and death escapes. We too are active as we long for light, seek hope, and try to restore a broken world.”

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude: Consolation (John)

Call to Worship

One: Lift up your eyes and look around.

Many: Arise! Shine! For our light has come.

One: The darkness shall no longer cover the earth.

Many: Arise! Shine! For our light has come!

One: Gather your children and bring gifts to the Lord.

Many: Arise! Shine! For you've been restored!

One: Oh God, you cry out to us - asking us, when will you see the light that I am, and experience the grace that I have extended to you?

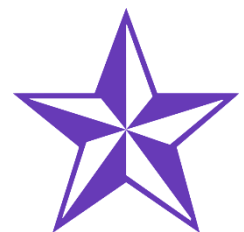
Many: When will we join the dance that brings us out of darkness and into the light?

One: Can you not see that God has restored you and that you are no longer able to go back the way you came?

All: Oh God, what are we waiting for? Arise! Shine! For our light has come.

Prayer

God, you have made yourself known to us, revealed to us your mystery, and we have been restored! Our lives will never be the same in the light of your truth. Our hearts thrill and rejoice! We lift our voices together with all of creation and sing our praises to you. The whole world is filled with joy and has been made glad. Light streams from the heavens and fills the earth. Hallelujah to our Emmanuel - our God will forever be with us!



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.

"There is a thread of presence that runs through all, through sickness and health, happiness and sorrow, success and defeat. That thread is what you hold to and weave all through your human self, for it is a pure light of conscious being, ever shining and weaving its way through the forest of all your days." — Adyashanti (A Revolution of Being)

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Isaiah and Matthew

Isaiah 60 (selected Verses) "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

"Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy... Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels... will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD... to the honor of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor."

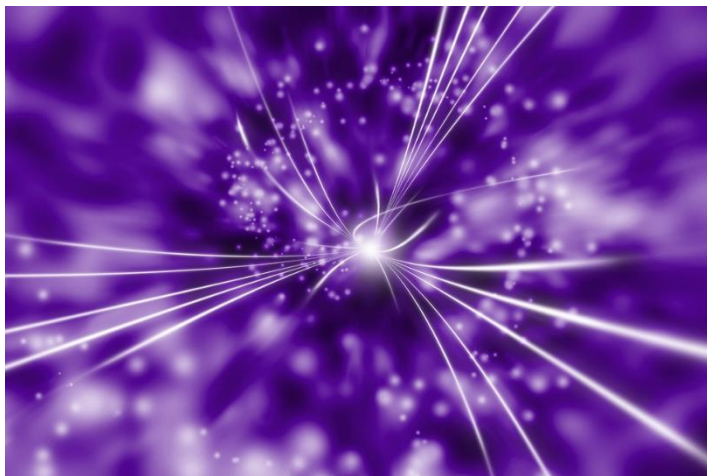
Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you... No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders...

The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end... "I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly."

Matthew 2:9-12 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



SERMON: "Epiphany Light and New Year Resolutions!" (Steve)

Our theme during Advent, was "Restoration!" Hope for this restoration was kept alive by the words of the Psalmist, the prophet Isaiah and the Gospel according to Luke.

All proclaimed the promise that God's salvation "was on its way!" The light of God will pierce the cosmic darkness, hope will be reborn in us just like a baby born in the light.

And now on Epiphany we celebrate that THE light HAS come, and so now we must walk in that light!

Congregational Singing (Cathy)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (John)

Sending (Steve)

"There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in."
— Leonard Cohen

"Man is born broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is glue." — Eugene O'Neill