

January 15, 2023

*“What Does Love Have To Do With It?”*

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



**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: Consolation (Geoff)**

**Call to Worship**

**L:** We are called to be one.

**P:** Because of Christ, we are one.

**L** One hope, one faith, one Lord,

**P:** one body, one spirit and one God!

**L:** Because of Christ all barriers have fallen,

**P:** there is no east or west.

**L:** In him there is no distinction between Jew or Greek,

**P:** nor between rich or poor,

**L:** not between young or old,

**P:** or between legal or illegal,

**L:** no difference between black or white,

**P:** and both male or female are equal.

**L:** We are all different but we are one in Christ!

**P:** Each of us is distinct but we are still one!

**L:** God’s love makes us one!

**All:** And nothing can separate us from this love!

**Opening Prayer**

**Congregational Singing (Geoff)**

## 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.

*"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." — Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase." — Martin Luther King Jr.*

*"The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice." — Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Scriptures: Leviticus 19:16-18, Matthew 5:43-48, 1 John 4:16-21**

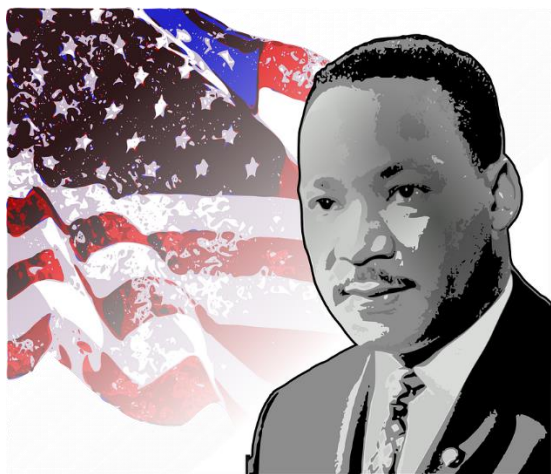
**Leviticus 19:16** "Do not go about spreading slander among your people. "Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the Lord. **17** "Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. **18** "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

**Matthew 5:43** "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **44** But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46** If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? **47** And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even

pagans do that? **48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**1 John 4:16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. **17** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. **18** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **19** We love because he first loved us. **20** Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. **21** And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

### SERMON: "What Does Love Have To Do With It?" (Denise)



Today's message will discuss Martin Luther King, Jr. and Civil Rights Movement.

*"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.*

*"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word." — Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*"Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love." — Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**Congregational Singing (Geoff)**

**Response (everyone)**

**Joys and Concerns (everyone)**

**Offering & Music (Geoff)**

**Sending (Steve )**