

January 29, 2023

“Religious and Racial Intolerance”

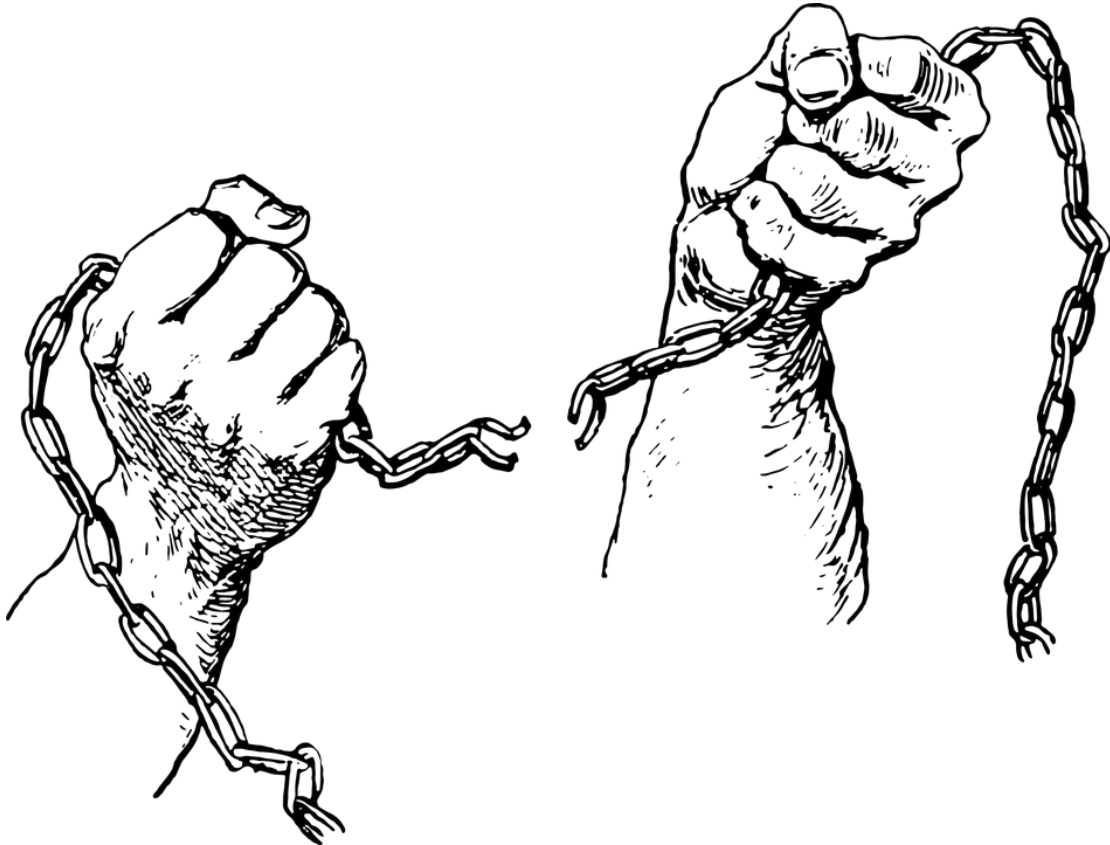
FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



“Racism, xenophobia and unfair discrimination have spawned slavery, when human beings have bought and sold and owned and branded fellow human beings as if they were so many beasts of burden.”

— Desmond Tutu

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 (John)

Call to Worship (Lynette)

Leader: If you are delighted to be here, and if you are tired or troubled,

People: You are welcome.

Leader: If your faith is strong, and if your faith is battered or frail,

People: You are welcome.

Leader: If you are eager to praise God, and if you need to be quiet,

People: you are welcome.

All: God welcomes us all to worship today and promises to meet us here.

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

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.

"Racism is man's gravest threat to man - the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason." — Abraham Joshua

"Racism is taught in our society, it is not automatic. It is learned behavior toward persons with dissimilar physical characteristics." — Alex Haley Heschel

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures

Revelation 7: 9-11

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.

Galatians 3:26-29

26 For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

SERMON: "Religious and Racial Intolerance" (Keith)



Keith will explore the role of intolerance (both religious and racial) as he continues the story of his ancestors. He will discuss their lives in the Maryland colony, the Protestant Revolution, the demise of the Religious Tolerance Act, and slavery.

He will also share letters written to the King and Queen of England by his ancestors and some extracts from their wills.

Congregational Singing (Cathy)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Cathy)

Peace Be With You - #854 (All)

Sending - #906 (Lynette)

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.

"Defeating racism, tribalism, intolerance and all forms of discrimination will liberate us all, victim and perpetrator alike." — Ban Ki-moon

"Racism oppresses its victims, but also binds the oppressors, who sear their consciences with more and more lies until they become prisoners of those lies. They cannot face the truth of human equality because it reveals the horror of the injustices they commit." — Alveda King