

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent: "True Humans Are Springs of Eternal Life!"

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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LENT 2023: AUTHENTIC HUMANITY

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 (John and Katelyn)

Call to Worship – Based on Psalm 32

L: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

P: Happy are those whom the LORD no longer blames and those whom the spirit will never deceive.

L: But I kept quiet, unwilling to own my mistakes and that's when I actually began to waste away, spending my time in despair.

P: Guilt and doubt weighed heavy upon me and my strength was dried up like a hot summer day. Selah (Stop and Listen!)

L: Then I acknowledged my fault. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave me. Selah (Stop and listen)

P: God, you are a place where I can hide. You can also keep me from trouble. Selah (Stop and Listen!)

L: So, don't be like a mule, without understanding, who is stubborn and must be curbed with bit and bridle.

All: We will choose to be glad in the LORD and rejoice. We will shout for joy and seek to live with upright in hearts.

Opening Prayer (Steve)

Congregational Singing (everyone)

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.

"I distrust those people who know so well what God wants them to do, because I notice it always coincides with their own desires." — Susan B. Anthony

"Guard well within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness." — George

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: John 4:5-30 and 39-42 (story of the woman at the well)



SERMON: "True Humans Are Springs of Eternal Life!" (Steve)

God refuses to stay put inside Holy buildings or within a particular group of folks. God wants to live within human hearts. Only God can quench our thirst with an atmospheric river of Divine love. Eternal life is filled by love, hope, joy, peace, patience, kindness, courage and faith flowing into and from us – starting now!

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Music (everyone)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (John)

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

"We think too small, like the frog at the bottom of the well. He thinks the sky is only as big as the top of the well. If he surfaced, he would have an entirely different view."
— Mao Zedong

"The ultimate lesson all of us have to learn is unconditional love, which includes not only others but ourselves as well." — Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

"Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens." — Khalil Gibran