

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent: "Here's Mud In Yer Eye! True Humans live in the Light of Christ"

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 (Stan)

Call to Worship – Based on Psalm 32 (Cathy)

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 (Stan)

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're blind to our blindness. We have very little idea of how little we know. We're not designed to know how little we know." — Daniel Kahneman

"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." — Helen Keller

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: John 9:1-16, 13-16, 35-38

1 As Jesus was leaving the Temple area, he came upon a man who had been blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 Jesus replied, "This fellow did nothing wrong, nor did his parents. Rather he was born blind so that God could display his work through him. 4 We must carry out the work of the one who sent me while it's still daylight. Nighttime is coming and then no one will be able to get anything done. 5 So long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 With that he spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes. 7 Then Jesus told him, "Go, rinse off the mud in the pool of Siloam..." So he went and rinsed his eyes off and returned with his sight restored.

8 Then his neighbors and those who recognized him as being a beggar, began saying, "Isn't this the fellow who used to sit and beg?" 9 And some said, "Yes it's him." While others said, "Naw, it's only someone who looks like him."

But he kept saying, "I am the man."

10 So they asked him, "Just how were your eyes opened?"

11 He answered, "Someone named Jesus made some mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, 'Go to Siloam and rinse it off.' So I did and suddenly I could see..."

13 Then they took the man to the Pharisees, 14 because it was on the Sabbath when Jesus made mud, spread it on his eyes and restored his sight.

35 Jesus heard that the Pharisees had thrown him out of the Temple, so he went to look for him and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Adam?"

36 He replied, "And who is he, sir? Let me know so that I may believe in him and follow him."

37 Jesus said to him, "You've already seen him; he's speaking with you right now."

38 And the man said, "You are my master, I believe!"



SERMON: "Here's Mud In Yer Eye! True Humans live in the Light of Christ!" (Steve, with introduction to generational trauma by Martha)

The good news is this: through the light of Jesus we can see more clearly and practice more effectively the restorative healing our world desperately needs. By healing the blind man Jesus not only nullified the passing of sin, but broke the chains of intergenerational trauma and all those other generational harmful links that have so devastated our world!

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Stan)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Stan)

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

"Until we uncover the actual triggering event in our family history, we can relive fears and feelings that don't belong to us—unconscious fragments of a trauma—and we will think they're ours."

— Mark Wolynn

"Trauma is not what happens to you, it's what happens inside you as a result of what happened to you. Trauma is that scarring that makes you less flexible, more rigid, less feeling and more defended." — Gabor Maté