

May 14, 2023

“Humans Are Not Meant to Live Alone”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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EASTER SEASON 2023: LIVING THE RESURRECTION, FULLY ALIVE IN CHRIST!

During Lent we explored some of the things that make us "truly human." The season of Easter began early on the morning of Easter Sunday and it brings forward a new call — to become truly human, face to face with the totally unexpected, simply mind-boggling, and truly life changing power of Christ that now lives within each of us.

“Once the realization is accepted that even between the closest human beings, infinite distances continue, a wonderful living side by side can grow, if they succeed in loving the distance between them which makes it possible for each to see the other whole against the sky.” — Rainer Maria Rilke

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (John)

Opening Prayer #866 (Steve)

May the Love
Which overcomes all differences,
Which heals all wounds,
Which put to flight all fears,
Which reconciles all who are separated,
Be in us and among us,
Now and always.

Call to Worship #885 (Steve)

Do not fear, says God.
I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name;
You are mine.
God is doing a new thing;
Now it springs forth!
By the grace of Jesus Christ,
We are forgiven! Amen

Congregational Singing (Cathy and all)

Passing of the Peace: #904

Hear the words of Jesus:

"Peace I leave with you,

My peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

And do not let them be afraid."

Now we share a sign of peace with one another.

"Just imagine becoming the way you used to be as a very young child, before you understood the meaning of any word, before opinions took over your mind. The real you is loving, joyful, and free. The real you is just like a flower, just like the wind, just like the ocean, just like the sun."

—Don Miguel Ruiz"

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Genesis 1:18-23

Genesis 1: 18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man (*literally, the earth creature*) should be alone; so I will make a suitable partner." 19 So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the earth creature to see what he ("*they*" *actually, since the earth creature was still lacking a gender*) would call them... 20 The earth creature gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field; but there was not found among them a true partner.

21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the earth creature and they slept; then the Lord God took one of their ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man (*gender now was simultaneously created*). 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." (*Taken from the side of man to stand side by side, that is!*)



SERMON: "Humans are Not Meant to Live Alone" (Steve)

There are certainly many reasons why we can end up isolated, but the good news is: it is NOT inevitable!

God does not intend for us to be isolated because we are created to be a part of a loving and caring community. We do have the antidote, "the fix," or "the cure."

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Cathy and all)

Response (all)

Joys and Concerns (all)

Offering & Music (John)

Sending: #909 (Steve)

God forgives you.

Forgive others.

Forgive yourself.

(silence)

Be at peace.

"It is wonderful how much time good people spend fighting the devil. If they would only expend the same amount of energy loving their fellow men, the devil would die in his own tracks of ennui." — Helen Keller."

"Loving people live in a loving world. Hostile people live in a hostile world. Same world." — Wayne Dyer

"The solution to alone-ness is not more solitude, but companionship and community." — Robert Fulghum