

November 19, 2023

*“Spend Your Talent on Risky Investments!”*

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



SEASON OF PENTACOST

## 1. GATHERING

**Musical Prelude (Cathy)**

**Call to Worship #866 (Cathy and Steve)**

**Leader: Open our ears**

**People:** to hear your word.

**Leader: Open our eyes**

**People:** to see your presence.

**Leader: Open our arms**

**People:** to the embrace of the community.

**Leader: Open our minds**

**People:** to the beauty of truth.

**Leader: Open our hearts.**

**People:** To the joy of new life.

**Officiant: Ouvre nos oreilles**

**Assemblée:** pour entendre ta parole.

**Officiant: Ouvre nos yeux**

**Assemblée:** Pour discerner ta présence.

**Officiant: Ouvre nos bras**

**Assemblée:** à l'accueil de la communauté.

**Officiant: Ouvre nos esprits**

**Assemblée:** à la beauté de la vérité.

**Officiant: Ouvre nos coeurs**

**Assemblée:** à la joie de la nouvelle vie.

**Opening Prayer #861 (Cathy and Steve)**

**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.

*“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me’.” — Erma Bombeck*

*“Talent is always conscious of its own abundance, and does not object to sharing.” — Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn*

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

25:1 Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this...

14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done,

good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"



### SERMON: "Spend Your Talent on Risky Investments!" (Steve)

The parables of Jesus are really good stories. And like any good storyteller Jesus used allegories, exaggeration, humor, the reversal of fortune, referred to current events, used contrast and comparison and sometimes an unexpected ending in order to both capture and then keep the attention of his audience.

*"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."*

— Henry Van Dyke

*"Everyone has a purpose in life and a unique talent to give to others. And when we blend this unique talent with service to others, we experience the ecstasy and exultation of own spirit, which is the ultimate goal of all goals."*

— Kallam Anji Reddy

### Congregational Singing (Cathy)

### Response (everyone)

### Joys and Concerns (everyone)

### Offering & Music (Cathy)

### Sending (Steve)

Christ has no body now on earth but ours.

Ours are the only hands with which Christ can do his work,

Ours are the only feet with which Christ can go about the world,

Ours are the only eyes through which Christ's compassion can shine forth on a troubled world.

Christ has no body on earth now but ours.