

November 26, 2023
"A Case for Radical Hope"

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 (Sharon)

Call to Worship #866

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.

Opening Prayer #861

Congregational Singing (Leanna)

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.

*"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul
- and sings the tunes without the words - and never
stops at all." — Emily Dickinson*

*"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose
infinite hope." — Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*"Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it,
casts the shadow of our burden behind us."
— Samuel Smiles*



2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: The Old Story and the New Story

Jeremiah 4: 19 Oh, my anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain. Oh, the agony of my heart! My heart pounds within me, I cannot keep silent. For I have heard the sound of the trumpet; I have heard the battle cry.

20 Disaster follows disaster; the whole land lies in ruins. In an instant my tents are destroyed, my shelter in a moment. 21 How long must I see the battle standard and hear the sound of the trumpet?

22 "My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good."

23 I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone.

24 I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. 25 I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. 26 I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

27 This is what the Lord says: "The whole land will be ruined, I will not destroy it completely. 28 Therefore the earth will mourn and the heavens above grow

dark, because I have spoken and will not relent, have decided and will not turn back."

29 At the sound of horsemen and archers every town takes to flight. Some go into the thickets; some climb up among the rocks. All the towns are deserted; no one lives in them.

Romans 8: 18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; 20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

SERMON: "A Case for Radical Hope" (John)



We live in a time of nearly unprecedented chaos. The challenge to social order and peace is profound. Look at the world conflict. Our long understanding of world organization and order is now called into question with unparalleled speed. In addition to the obvious violence in progress, there is a strong fear of imminent new points of conflict.

Where is there any peace? And here in our own country, there is so much evidence of hostility and rage. It is as if the very fabric of our culture is being shredded. But wait! If the current order of things is not torn down, how can we re-create? Chaos may be God's very sign that order needs to experience radical change. I will discuss the basis of a radical hope.

Congregational Singing (Leanna)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Leana)

Sending (John)

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.

"Darkness comes. In the middle of it, the future looks blank. The temptation to quit is huge. Don't. You are in good company... You will argue with yourself that there is no way forward. But with God, nothing is impossible. He has more ropes and ladders and tunnels out of pits than you can conceive. Wait. Pray without ceasing. Hope." — John Piper

SPIRITUALITY

164

Prayer of Peace

drum beat beginning and

*4/22/16
VS 1*

FM

*5
6*

Chords: F, C/F, Bb/F

1 Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us, peace
 2 Love be - fore us, love be - hind us, love
 3 Light be - fore us, light be - hind us, light
 4 Christ be - fore us, Christ be - hind us, Christ
 5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 6 ~~Peace~~ be - fore us, ~~peace~~ be - hind us, ~~peace~~

Hope

Chords: Bb/F, F

un - der our feet. Peace with - in us,
 un - der our feet. Love with - in us,
 un - der our feet. Light with - in us,
 un - der our feet. Christ with - in us,
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 un - der our feet. ~~Peace~~ with - in us,

Hope

Chords: C/F, Bb/F, F

peace o - ver us, let all a - round us be peace.
 love o - ver us, let all a - round us be love.
 light o - ver us, let all a - round us be light.
 Christ o - ver us, let all a - round us be Christ.
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
~~peace~~ *hope* o - ver us, let all a - round us be ~~peace~~ *hope*.

Words: David Haas, 1957-; based on a Navajo prayer

Music: David Haas, 1957-

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U.S.A. (Navajo)
PRAYER OF PEACE

*to
160*

Friend of the Streetwalker

JUSTICE

289

1 Friend of the street-walk-er, beg-gar, and child,
 2 Take from us prej-u-dice, ha-tred, and scorn,
 3 O-pen our hearts and our heads and our hands,
 4 Three-per-soned Mys-ter-y, mul-ti-ple One,

lift-ing and bless-ing the weak and re-viled,
 fear and sus-pi-cion of an-'y-one born
 let us ex-pe-rience how car-ing ex-pands
 joined by di-ver-si-ty new-er un-done:

wel-com-ing those the de-vout turned a-way:
 out-side our fenc-es of mon-ey and race:
 past all the la-bels and lim-its we learn:
 may we more tru-ly your im-age re-veal,

Je-sus, we need your ex-am-ple to-day.
 help us, O God, not to shun but em-brace.
 Spir-it of mer-cy, en-large our con-cern.
 com-ing to-geth-er to make your love real.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944—
 Music: Alfred V. Fedak, 1953—
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U.S.A.
 10.10.10.10.
 MYRRH-BEARING MARY