

October 22, 2023

“Being Right is Sometimes of Little Consolation”

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 (Geoff)

Call to Worship (Steve)

Opening Prayer by Rabbi Alissa Wise (Steve)

May the One Who Comforts, hold all those grieving and traumatized and frightened for however long it takes.

May the One Who Releases the Captive, release all those caught and bound.

May the One Who Makes Peace, illuminate paths of peace for those seeing only paths of violence and vengeance.

May the One Who Loves Justice, fortify us to reinforce our solidarities with all those who share our vision of justice and dignity for all people.

May the One Who Knows Hope, instill in us the confidence to imagine wholeness, safety, and freedom for all people.

May the One Who We Need, be there for us as we waver and struggle, as we are confused and uncertain until we find solid ground once again.

May the One Who Remembers, allow us to hold in one hand 75 years of occupation, dispossession and

violence and in the other a future of peace, justice and freedom.

May the One Who is Slow to Anger, soften our hearts and our fists helping us to put down the sword even at the height of the arc of our rage.

May the One of Possibility, remind us that a future of peace with justice is possible.

May the One Who Awakens Us, to Life hold us in our pain and vindictiveness until we set those down for the sake of life.

May the One Who Endures, allow us to act for the sake of the coming generations.

May the One Who is Without Limit, expand our senses of what is possible as we reach for justice, freedom and peace for us all.

May the One Who Knows Life is Precious, help us to affirm life is precious.

May the One Who Grants Peace, Goodness, Blessing, Grace, Lovingkindness, and Mercy, grant them now no matter how undeserving we are.

Congregational Singing (Geoff)

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.

"Zealot violence, Jesus knew, would lead to national destruction. It was an illusion to look for peace through violence. The way of the Suffering Servant was the only way to messianic shalom." — Ronald Sider, founder of CPT

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Luke 22:47-54



Suddenly while he was still speaking, a crowd appeared and the one called Judas, also one of the original twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to greet him with a kiss. But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you turning me in with a kiss?"

And when those around him figured out what was going on, they asked, "Should we use our swords now?" But before he could answer, one of his disciples struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

But Jesus said, "Stop! No more violence!" He then touched the slave's ear and healed it.

Then Jesus spoke directly to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with your swords and clubs as if I were some kind of rebel? I've been with you in plain sight day after day in the temple, but you didn't lay a hand on me then. But this is your hour when the power of darkness reigns!"

Then they arrested him and led him away...."

SERMON: "Being Right is Sometimes of Little Consolation" (Steve)

I like being right. It's very very important to me. But I admit to you this morning that sometimes being right is of little consolation. I believe Jesus calls us to be peaceful peacemakers.

And so, the use of violence on both sides in Israel and Gaza is wrong. This is the 5th war that Israel has declared against Gaza in the past 18 years. War is not only the wrong moral choice; it's simply not working to bring about true peace!

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Geoff)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Geoff)

Sending (Steve)

"I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent." — Mahatma Gandhi

"Social justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create."

— Pope John Paul II

