

October 8, 2023

"The Canada Experiment"

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

"Each one of us has our own evolution of life, and each one of us goes through different tests which are unique and challenging. But certain things are common. And we do learn things from each other's experience. On a spiritual journey, we all have the same destination." — A. R. Rahman

Musical Prelude (John)

Call to Worship (Steve)

L: Fleeing persecution; incarceration, torture, slavery, and death at the fiery stake they arrived on distant shores, seeking peace and permission to live as peaceful people.

P: Thank you God for preserving our ancestors through the wilderness of darkness and despair.

L: Into the land of the Pawnee, Sioux and Osage peoples, they came carrying little to nothing, but where they found streams that flowed clean, woodlands full of game and deep dark soil for their plows to turn.

P: Forgive us and our ancestors for not fully understanding the full costs of such bounty.

L: Not only did we manage to survive, but we thrived in both the freedom to worship and to accumulate vast amounts of material goods.

P: Help us oh God not to forget your commandments and to share your bounty with all.

L: And for those of us who at this moment gather on the ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute Nations...

ALL: Help us to honor you by continuing to seek your true peace that only comes when we seek justice for all who now live in this land.

Opening Prayer: #859 (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.

"We're a part of the insurrection, trying to turn Christianity upside down. We're an experimental church: God's research and development arm." — Erwin McManus

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-10

Deuteronomy 26:1 When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is leading you to settle in, 2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. 3 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us."

4 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, 5 you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.

6 When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, 7 we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

8 The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; 9 and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me."



SERMON: "The Canadian Experiment" (Keith M.)

Join Keith in the 13th "episode" of his ancestral story. This talk looks at the continued establishment of the frontier into western Pennsylvania and southern Ontario, as well as into Ohio.

It focuses on 6 different families, and includes a conflict with Canadian law (or political) authorities, a new family business, and a land speculator!

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Cathy)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (John)

Sending (Steve)

"But groundless hope, like unconditional love, is the only kind worth having."

— John Perry Barlow

ANNUAL RETREAT AT SKY RANCH

No church next Sunday (Oct. 14). We'll be at our annual retreat. Talk to Keith Price-Foster if you still want to go.

DAN LEATHERMAN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Date and Time: Sunday, Oct. 21 at 1 pm

Place: Foothills Unitarian Universalist Church, 1815 Yorktown, Ft Collins (along west Drake between Shields and Taft).