

September 10, 2023

*“What We Do — A Nuisance or a Necessity?”*

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**

*“It is a curious phenomena that God has made the hearts of the poor, rich and those of the rich, poor.”*

— Vinoba Bhave

*“The endurance of the inequalities of life by the poor is the marvel of human society.”*

— James Anthony Froude

**Musical Prelude (Geoff)**

**Call to Worship (Steve and Cathy) - #851**

**L:** Jesus calls us  
to praise and prayer,  
to song and silence;

**P:** Jesus calls us to worship.

**L:** Jesus calls us  
to hearing and healing,  
to service and solidarity.

**P:** Jesus calls us to love.

**L:** Jesus calls us  
to advocacy and action,  
to protest and provision;

**P:** Jesus calls us to justice

**L:** We hear the call of Christ.

**ALL:** We all worship together with joy.

**Opening Prayer (Steve) - #868**

**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.

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Scripture:** Matthew 25:35-40

"... for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a foreigner and you showed me hospitality, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you came to see me.' Then the virtuous will say, "Our Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and gave you a drink? And when was it that we saw you as a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we found you ill or in prison?' And then the Lord of Heaven and Earth will respond, 'I swear, whatever you did for those most ignored, who are also members of my family, you did it for me as well.'"

**SERMON: "What We Do — A Nuisance or a Necessity?" (Steve)**



According to a recently adopted city ordinance, FCMF has been deemed a "Chronic Nuisance Property." As a result, the city requested that we submit a plan to abate those behaviors that have created the nuisances. Rather than submit a long list of "Thou shalt nots" – rules and what happens when they are violated – we took another approach.

We decided to first include a long list of "Thou shalls" – all the amazing things we do in our attempt to be faithful to Jesus' call to serve the poor . . . and then we listed our rules!

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Congregational Singing (Geoff)**

**Response (everyone)**

**Joys and Concerns (everyone)**

**Offering & Music (Geoff)**

**Sending (Steve) - #1032**



*"Capitalism does not permit an even flow of economic resources. With this system, a small privileged few are rich beyond conscience, and almost all others are doomed to be poor at some level. That's the way the system works. And since we know that the system will not change the rules, we are going to have to change the system." — Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*"The extremely wealthy have disproportionate influence on policies that impact us all. This corrupts our politics and leads to poorer people being denied the economic opportunity to flourish in life."  
— Winnie Byanyima*