

September 3, 2023

*“Swearing an Oath of Allegiance to a Political State and its Military — Not!”*

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 (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 Erie, Kickapoo and Shawnee, 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:** But 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 (Steve) - #857**

**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.

*"What I really learned in the army was how to be a pacifist." — Utah Phillips*

*"Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means." — Ronald Reagan*

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Scripture: Acts 5:27-33**

Acts 5:27 When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us."

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

33 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.



**SERMON: "Swearing an Oath of Allegiance to a Political State and its Military — Not!" (Keith)**

Keith will continue his family history lecture series as he discusses the PA Security Act of 1778 that ensnared several of his ancestors and sent them to jail. The Security Act required all male citizens of PA to sign an oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth and to agree to serve in the Militia, which went against the conscience of the Swiss German Anabaptist farmers.

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Congregational Singing (Cathy)**

**Response (everyone)**

**Joys and Concerns (everyone)**

**Offering & Music (John)**

**Sending (Steve) - #1002**

*"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." — Mother Teresa*

*"Martin Luther King Jr. was not just a man of peace. He was a radical pacifist, and so he was against war across the board." — Cornel West*

*"I am not only a pacifist but a militant pacifist. I am willing to fight for peace. Nothing will end war unless the people themselves refuse to go to war." — Albert Einstein*