

April 21, 2024

“Happy Earth Day!”

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 EASTER

A very large stone was used to seal Jesus’ fate as just another tragically failed Messiah — dead, entombed, and soon forgotten. Yet it could not contain him nor the new questions that carries us into the Easter Season. The women wonder as they approach, "Who will move the stone for us?" The figures in dazzling apparel ask, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” Perhaps the power of love can bring us new life!

## 1. GATHERING

**Musical Prelude (Geoff)**

**Call to Worship (Steve)**

We come together for sabbath rest.  
We rest in the love of the Creator, who made us.  
We rest in the hope of Jesus Christ, who saves us.  
We rest in the power of the Holy Spirit, who makes us one.  
In this hour of worship, we come as God’s people  
to rest together in the peace of God’s presence.

*“The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth.” — Chief Seattle*

*“There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew.” — Marshall McLuhan*

*“This Earth is our only home. Together, we must protect and cherish it.” — Ban Ki-moon*

## Opening Prayer

Gracious and loving God, you have created for us this gift called Sabbath for which we give you thanks. You have also called us to be stewards of your Abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.

Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message to those we serve.

## Congregational Singing

### 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

### Leviticus 25:1-7

25 The Lord said to Moses at Mount Sinai, 2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the Lord.

3 For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. 4 But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. 5 Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. 6 Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you—for yourself, your male and female servants, and the

hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, 7 as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.

### Matthew 6:19-21

19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

### SERMON: "Happy Earth Day!"

Today Denise will present a stewardship message that does not involve any requests for money!

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Congregational Singing

### Response

### Joys and Concerns

### Offering & Music (Geoff)

In a world where we so often dwell on what we lack, you are a God of abundance. In the face of hunger, you call us to share food. In the face of poverty, to share resources. In the face of despair, to share hope. Accept these offerings as a sign that all we have is yours. We trust in your abundant love that flows in us and through us. Amen

### Sending (#1009)

Source and sustainer of life,  
We cherish the myriad works of your hands.  
Water, earth, and sky are yours,  
As are all their inhabitants, wild and tame.  
We thank you for creatures that nourish and service us,  
Befriend, enrich, entertain, and protect us.  
May we, who are made in your image, care for them well.  
And may your groaning yet wondrous creation rally and thrive,  
Revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transforming love,  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*"Even after all this time, the sun never says to the earth, 'You owe me.' Look what happens with a love like that. 'It lights the whole sky.'" — Hafez*

