

January 21, 2024
"Anabaptism in the Middle Ages"

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 EPIPHANY

Epiphany means "to make manifest." This is the season when we see Jesus' divine mission revealed to the world. After delivering their monetary tributes and pledging their allegiance to their new king, those intrepid Astronomers climbed back into their saddles again. But the journey home was via a different path since being wholly transformed, they could not go back the way they came. Today, the star still leads us to reflect its light.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (Geoff)

Call to Worship (#854)

L: Some of us are exhausted.

P: We come to rest.

L: Some of us are curious about Jesus.

P: We come to learn.

L: Some of us are hungry.

P: We come to be fed.

L: Some of us are disoriented.

P: We come to pray.

L: Some of us are broken.

P: We come to be healed.

L: We gather around you today, O Christ.

P: Teach us, feed us, hear us, heal us.

All: Grant us your peace. Amen.

"He who has a why to live can bear almost any how." — Friedrich Nietzsche

Opening Prayer (#858)

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

Scriptures: Matthew 19:24

And then this guy comes up to him and says, "Okay professor, what good deeds exactly must I do in order to make my life complete?"

He said to him, "Why do you need to ask me what good deeds are? There's really only one thing in this world that is truly good, and if you want true life, then be true to God's instructions."

But the guy insisted, "But which ones are the most important?"

Jesus replied, "Don't kill anyone or be unfaithful to your partner. Don't steal or tell a lie, respect your father, mother and elders, and treat your neighbor the same way you treat yourself."

But the young man explained, "But I already do all that! Is there anything else I might be missing out on?"

Jesus replied, "If you really want to be 'all in,' then go right now and sell everything you own and give that

money directly to the poor. Only then will you be able to join in with me and have heavenly treasures that can more than replace anything that you have to give up."

But when the young man heard that, he was deflated and he left because he had too much stuff that he couldn't let go of.

Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said, "I truly mean it when I say that it's nearly impossible for a rich person to experience the heavenly-like domain of God's rule. I'll say it again, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

But when his disciples heard that, they were shocked and exclaimed, "No one can do that?"

But Jesus looked them in eyes and declared, "But God can do anything."



SERMON: "Anabaptism in the Middle Ages" (Keith)

Back in summer of 2022, in Library Park, Keith first introduced us to Anabaptist history and his Anabaptist ancestors. He depicted Conrad Grebel as the first Anabaptist and Felix Manz as the first Anabaptist martyr. However, he admitted that since the time of Christ there have been groups that baptized no infants, only adults, who were called Anabaptists, and who were martyred for their beliefs. So today, he will talk about the Anabaptists of the Middle Ages (sometimes know as the Dark Ages) – a time period spanning the 5th century to the Renaissance!

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing

Response

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music (Geoff)

Sending (based on Isaiah 60:1-6)

Get up, be brilliant, for your light has come and God's glory is shining on you. Yes, for a time, darkness does seem to cover the earth and thick darkness blinds us all. But the LORD's sun will arise upon you and lighten your way. Even rulers and nations shall see the brightness of your dawn.

Look up, open your eyes and look around, it is happening. Within the light you will be radiant. Your heart shall thrill and rejoice, and you will be beside yourselves with joy! Just as if a multitude of camels arrived on your doorstep, bringing not only gold and frankincense, but hope, courage, and love.

"Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care." — Theodore Roosevelt

"The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively." — Bob Marley