

May 19, 2024

*“Justice. Compassion. Mercy.”*

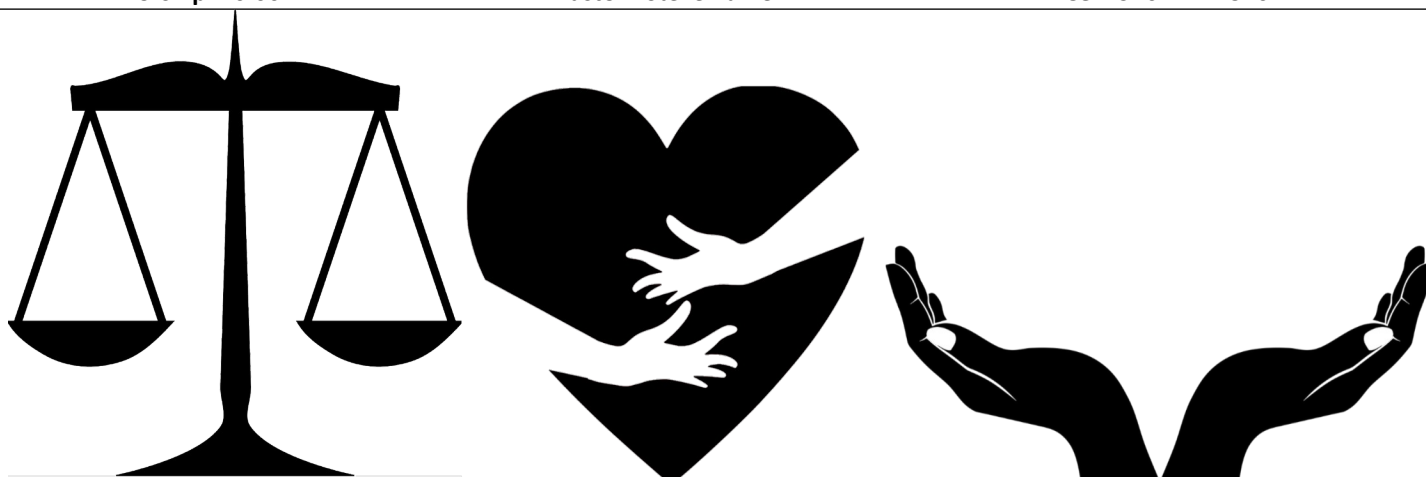
FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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 (John)

### Call to Worship: #1024 (Lynette)

**Leader:** There is no scarcity. There is no shortage.

No lack of love, compassion, of joy in the world.

There is enough. There is more than enough.

Only fear and greed make us think otherwise.

No one need starve.

**People:** There is enough land and enough food.

**Leader:** No one need die of thirst.

**People:** There is enough water.

### Opening Prayer: #1033 (Lynette)

Living Christ, in these times,  
when we fear we are losing hope or feel our efforts are futile,  
let us see in our hearts and minds, the image of your resurrection,  
and let that be our source of courage and strength.

With that, and in your company,  
help us face challenges and struggles against all that is born of injustice.

— Amen

### 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.

**Leader:** No one need live without mercy.

**People:** There is no end to grace.

**Leader:** And we are all instruments of grace.

**People:** The more we give it, the more we share it,  
the more we use it, the more God makes.

**Leader:** There is no scarcity of love.

*“The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice.”*

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”*

— Robert Kennedy

**Scripture: Matthew 23:23; 5:1-2,6-7; Psalms 119:156, 160**

**Matthew 23:23**

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others."

**Matthew 5:1-2,6-7**

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain and when he was set, his disciples came to unto him.

And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

**Psalms 119:156, 160**

Great is your mercy, O Lord; give me life according to your justice. Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

**SERMON: "Justice. Compassion. Mercy."**



Today, Keith will respond to John's message about the moral arc of the universe bending toward an inclusive and holistic justice.

Keith will ask the question, "Does justice interfere with Mercy? Or does Mercy interfere with Justice?"

*"This hour we are stretching forth our hands with the desire to teach the world the true principles of mercy and justice." — Marcus Garvey*

*"The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others." — Albert Schweitzer*

### **3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Congregational Singing (Geoff)**

**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: #1042 (Lynette)**

God our sanctuary,  
grant us and our neighbors near and far,  
courage in our hearts,  
peace in our homes,  
and justice in our streets. — Amen

*"The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another." — Thomas Merton*