

November 10, 2024

*“Loss”*

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**FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP**

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

**Worship:** 10:00 AM

**Pastor:** Steve Ramer

**Office:** (970) 658-2623 **Cell:** 970-412-7510

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**SEASON OF PENTECOST**

“Tongues of fire came and rested upon each one of them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit!”

**1. GATHERING**

**Musical Prelude (Stan)**

**A Reading from Lamentations**

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.

I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

My eyes flow unceasingly, without relief... What I see brings grief to my soul...

Joy is gone from our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning.

Because of this our hearts are faint...

But we are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though life brings grief,

God will show compassion, so great is God’s unfailing love.

I called on your name, O LORD, from the depths of the pit. You heard my plea...:

You came near when I called you, and you said, "Do not fear."

*“Nothing heals us like letting people know our scariest parts: When people listen to you cry and lament, and look at you with love, it's like they are holding the baby of you.” — Anne Lamott*

O Lord, you took up my case; you redeemed my life. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope... Because of the LORD's great love...

and the Lord’s great compassion never fails.

For they are as fresh as the morning and as sure as each sunrise

God does not change and great is God’s faithfulness.

You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation.

Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may return and be renewed like our days of old...

**ALL:** O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in the LORD.

### Opening Prayer (John Phillip Newell)

L: Be strong, O my soul,

P: Be strong this day.

L: To face this moment and feel its pain,

P: To cry with our mothers and weep for our daughters,

L: To stand by our fathers and sons of color,

P: And defend our true brothers and sisters of all races and religions.

### Congregational Singing (Stan)

#### 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.

L: To serve compassion rather than fear,

P: To invoke wisdom instead of ignorance,

L: To elect humility over false pride.

P: Be strong, O my soul,

L: Be strong this day,

P: Be strong this day for love.

*"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of those depths." — Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scriptures: Corinthians 4 (Selected Verses)



Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth, we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God...

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ...

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies...

So, we do not lose heart... because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Time of Open Sharing

### Joys and Concerns

### Offering & Music (Stan)

### Sending: John 1:1-10 NRS

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and his life was the light for all people.

And The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world.

The Light is in the world, and the world came into being through this light;

and yet the world may not always see it!

*"There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance next time." — Malcolm X*

**Peace be with you...**