

September 29, 2024

*“Peace Sunday: Broken Vessels”*

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

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Image from “Kintisukuroi,” *Inspired*, Volume Two, Issue No. 3: MAY & JUN 2021  
(<https://mindfulsoulcenter.co/the-magazine/inspiration-kintisukuroi/>)

## 1. GATHERING

### Musical Prelude (John)

**Opening Prayer: A Prayer for Peace** (*adapted by Level Ground Church, Abbotsford, B.C., Canada*)

**Lord, have mercy!**

Christ, have mercy!

**When, O Lord, will we learn that peace does not come through force?**

When, O Lord, will we learn that peace does not come through fighting?

**When, O Lord, will we learn that peace does not come by conquering others?**

When, O Lord, will we learn that peace does not come through killing?

**We look on with horror at the ever-escalating violence that grips the people and their nations in the Middle East.**

We mourn the faith placed in weapons, perpetuating cycles of violence.

**We mourn the faith placed in military might.**

We mourn the faith placed in violence, as if that can bring about right relationships.

**We mourn the faith placed in political rhetoric and posturing.**

Christians are called to embody a faith that seeks the welfare of others, not their demise.

**Christians are called to embody a faith that lays down our weapons.**

Christians are called to build bridges of respect, mutuality and resolution even with those who may be hostile to us.

**Christians are called to love our enemies, or refuse to have enemies.**

Christians are called to invite others, including those of other faiths and to seek alternatives to violence.

**Christians are called to embody a faith that follows the way of the Prince of Peace.**

Rockets will not bring peace.

**Invasion will not bring peace.**

Guns will not bring peace.

**Violence will not bring peace.**

Enough! Basta! Ça suffit!

**God, the Creator of heaven and earth, have mercy on us.**

Christ the Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

**God the Holy Sustainer, have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, Divine Community, have mercy on us. Amen.

### 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.

*"There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in."*

— Leonard Cohen

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 18:1-4 and 6, 2 Corinthians 4:7

**Jeremiah 18:1** The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 "Come with me down to the potter's house and take note." 3 So I went down to the potter's house, while the potter was working at the wheel. 4 Now the first vessel made from clay did not turn out well so the potter reworked the clay into another vessel that was far better. . . . 5 Then the Lord spoke to me again: 6 "Can I not do with you, my beloved people, just as this potter has done? My beloved I too caress you just like the potter does. Indeed, just like clay in the hand of a loving potter, so are you in my hand."

**2 Corinthians 4:7** But we carry around in simple clay jars a true treasure this immense gift of God. As such, it is abundantly clear then that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not emanate from us.

**Sermon:** "The Broken Vessel is Often More Beautiful than the Original!" (Steve)



2 Corinthians 4:7 describes the gospel as a "treasure" in "clay jars." We are humble-looking vessels that bring to mind the Japanese tradition of kintsukuroi that creates (or recreates) pottery from broken pieces.

Damaged vessels are put back together, often with gold binding, to create a useful object once again. The new piece tells a story about the past and is infused with glory that is greater than the former.

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Congregational Singing (Cathy)

#### Response

#### Joys and Concerns

#### Offering & Music (John)

**Sending:** by Wincy Wan (*member of the Peace Commission, pastor of a Mennonite church in Hong Kong*)

God of the entire cosmos. Through your gentle touch, we can experience your precious healing. Our imperfections are treated with special honor. Oh God, please help us to be sensitive to people's wounds. Through your grace and gifts, may we embody your love, empathy and compassion.

We are willing to meet the needs of others. Grant us the courage to embrace our brokenness, receive healing and reveal your glory through our wounds. Thank you, God. You are Jehovah Rapha. Your healing brings us unity and peace.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*"The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places."*

— Ernest Hemingway



*"The heart will break, but broken lives on."*  
— Lord Byron

*"Man is born broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is glue."* — Eugene O'Neill