

**February 2, 2025**  
***“The Courage to Love”***

**FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP**

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

**Worship: 10:00 AM**

**Pastor: Steve Ramer**

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**ANABAPTIST WORLD FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY**

The first baptisms in the Anabaptist tradition took place in secret in Zurich, Switzerland, on 21 January 1525. A small group of Jesus-followers acted together with courage on their shared understanding of Scripture and the church, different from their political and religious context. Today there are churches all over the world in the Anabaptist tradition, acting together with courage to love each other, different from our political and religious contexts that too often pull us apart.

**1. GATHERING**

**Prelude (Stan)**

**Call to Worship: based on Psalm 133 (Lynette)**

L: Though we may be inclined to brag, let us come together with humility.

P: How good a thing it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.

L: Though we may be tempted to use harsh words, let us come together with gentleness.

P: How good a thing it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.

L: Though we may want everything to happen quickly, let us come together with patience.

P: How good a thing it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.

L: Though the world around often encourages hate, let us come together in love.

P: How good a thing it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.

L: In humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity, let us worship the God who has called us together.

—written by Reverend Joanna Harader, a Mennonite Pastor

*“The essence of the beautiful is unity in variety.”*  
— Felix Mendelssohn

## Opening Prayer (Lynette)

We give thanks for your creation with all of its beauty and diversity on earth and in the heavens.

We seek your forgiveness for our failures to live up to your plan and purpose.

We seek your courage and power to follow Jesus's teachings to cooperate with you in restoration of your kingdom in a world that is broken and messy.

Together we pray that we may recognize and affirm the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our sisters and brothers of our various national church conferences, and live into the unity we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

May your love flow through the churches to the youth in their communities, reaching them with the message of Jesus. We pray for the churches in those parts of the world who face many the challenges to be faithful to you.

## 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.

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scriptures: Psalms 133

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.



### Sermon: "The Courage to Love"

"Church unity is like your sense of smell: it fills you with hope and strength when you experience it, or it makes you want to disengage and run away when poorly managed conflicts make it evaporate. This is what Psalm 133 is all about."

—César García, General Secretary of Mennonite World Conference

*"The most successful of the nations of the world are those who do not fall into the lure of secession but who, through thick and thin, forge unity in diversity." — Yemi Osinbajo*

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Congregational Singing (Stan)

#### Response

#### Joys and Concerns

#### Offering & Music (Stan)

#### Commission (based on 1 John 4:7-2)

Go now, to love the world and all who inhabit it, because love is from God.

Proclaim God's salvation to every people.

Remain in Jesus Christ, and like plants in a garden, draw your life from God.

And may God, the Creator, tend you and make you flourish; May Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;

And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

...In the name of Christ. Amen.

—written by Reverend Gerald Hildebrand, a Mennonite Pastor

#### Benediction (from Africa)

**Leader:** God is good

**People:** All the time.

**Leader:** All the time

**People:** God is good.

**Leader:** All the time

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**Leader:** God is good

**People:** All the time.