

February 16, 2025

“Learning to Hope in the Dark: Practices of Faith for Uncertain Times”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

An epiphany is a sudden and striking realization or insight, often leading to a deeper understanding of a situation or problem. In a religious context, it refers to the manifestation of a divine being.

1. GATHERING

Prelude (Leanna): #368

Call to Worship: #983 (Steve)

Leader: Eternal Strength,

People: Hold us

Leader: Eternal Hope

People: Hold Us

Leader: Eternal Compassion

People: Comfort us in our grief.

Leader: Eternal Goodness

People: Grant us your grace

Leader: As we live, work, and pray in this place , in this time

People: And with these people who reveal your love

— Amen

“We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us thru that darkness to a safe and sane future.” — John F. Kennedy

“From my point of view, God is the light that illuminates the darkness, even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of divine light is within each of us.” — Pope Francis

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” — Desmond Tutu

“Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark.” — Rabindranath Tagore

Opening Prayer (Steve)

There is possibility of peace in this season. There is possibility of wisdom in this in-between.

There is possibility of holy in the night.

May we be attuned to Peace, May we be sensitive to wisdom, may we seek the beautiful holy glimpses in ourselves, others and God's Spirit. — Amen

Congregational Singing (Rachel): #11

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: Luke 10:25-28 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."



Sermon: "Learning to Hope in the Dark: Practices of Faith for Uncertain Times"

Having a spiritual practice of some type is important during times when we feel we are not in control, we feel we are vulnerable, and we feel fragile and fail. Perhaps it is time to expand our spirituality beyond what we know and have adopted. Perhaps it is time to accept that our spirituality includes darkness – because it is part of our lives and Spirit is ALWAYS present with us in the dark.

"Help us to be ever faithful gardeners of the spirit, who know that without darkness nothing comes to birth, and without light nothing flowers." — May Sarton

"Out of darkness comes creation". — Famke Janssen

"In order for the light to shine so brightly, the darkness must be present." — Francis Bacon

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Rachel): #705

Response

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music (Leanna): #831

Sending: #1065 (Steve)

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to:

Walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God;

Walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High;

Walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.

Amen

