

February 23, 2025  
"Not Just Backscratchers!"

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

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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 (John)

Call to Worship: #856 (Steve)

Leader: Christ is like a single body that has many parts.

All: It is still one body though every part is different.

Leader: Therefore, the foot cannot say,

**Part 1: I am not part of the body;**

Leader: nor can the ear say,

**Part 2: I am not part of the body.**

Leader: The eye cannot say to the hand,

**Part 1: I don't need you;**

Leader: nor can the head say to the feet,

**Part 2: I don't need you.**

Leader: If one part suffers,

**All: all parts share the pain;**

Leader: if one part is praised,

**All: all parts share the joy.**

Leader: Together, we are Christ's body;

**All: each one of us is a part of it.**

Opening Prayer: #876 (Steve)

Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked,  
Draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ  
and touch his wounds

Where they bleed in others. — Amen

*"The God who existed before any religion counts on you to make the oneness of the human family known and celebrated." — Desmond Tutu*

## 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.

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scriptures: Luke 6:27-38

Luke 6:27 "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you;

6:28 bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you.

6:29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.

6:30 Give to everyone who ask of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again.

6:31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

6:32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

6:33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

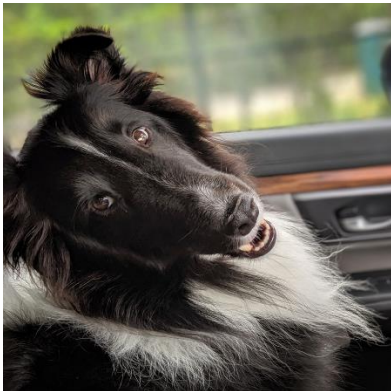
6:34 If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

6:35 Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

6:37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;

6:38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."



### Sermon: "Not Just Backscratchers!"

Jesus is challenging an age old social contract: "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours!" In fact God's "Kin-dom" is really the opposite of that. It was as contrary to the conventional wisdom of Jesus' day as it seems today. God's love is not merely a reciprocal arrangement given to those who can pay it back, but it is given freely and abundantly without any expectation of returns.

*"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant." — Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Congregational Singing (Cathy)

#### Response

#### Joys and Concerns

#### Offering & Music (John)

#### Sending: #1050 (Steve)

**Leader:** From where we are to where you need us;

**All: Jesus, now lead on.**

**Leader:** From the familiarity of what we know to the wonder of what you will reveal;

**All: Jesus, now lead on.**

**Leader:** To transform the fabric of this world until it resembles the shape of your kingdom;

**All: Jesus, now lead on.**

**Leader:** Because good things have been prepared for those who love God.

**All: Jesus, now lead on.**