

January 12, 2025

*“Love in Action at 300 E. Oak”*

**FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP**

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

**Worship: 10:00 AM**

**Pastor: Steve Ramer**

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### SEASON 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 (Geoff)**

**Call to Worship: #852 (Martha)**

Leader: In the beginning when it was very quiet, the Word was with God,

**All: and the Word was God.**

Leader: In the beginning when it was very dark, God said, “Let there be light,”

**All: and there was light.**

Leader: When the time was right, God sent the Son;

**All: Christ came among us and was one of us.**

**Opening Prayer (Martha)**

**Congregational Singing (Geoff)**

*“Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me - you did it to me.' ” — Matthew 25:40*

*“Radical servanthood challenges us, while attempting persistently to overcome poverty, hunger, illness, and any other form of human misery, to reveal the gentle presence of our compassionate God in the midst of our broken world.” — Henri Nouwen*

## 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: James 2:1-17**

James 2:1 My dear friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. 2 For instance, if a person with gold rings and fine clothes enters your church and a homeless person wearing smelly rags comes in at the same time 3 and you say to the person in fine clothes, "Sit here please, since this is the best seat in the house!" while ignoring the street person or telling them to leave, 4 haven't you segregated God's children...?

5 Listen, dear friends. Isn't it clear by now that God operates quite differently since God chooses the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens...

14 Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? 15 For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved 16 and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup - where does that get you? 17 Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?



### Sermon: "Love in Action at 300 E. Oak" (Steve)

Today we will look at just how much our little church does by examining a report titled, "Faith in Action Outcomes for Typical 12-Month Period: Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship Hospitality Program." These are statistics provided in December to Owen McAleer, Senior Grants Program Officer of Daniels Fund.

*"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."*

— Coretta Scott King

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Congregational Singing (Geoff)**

**Response**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Offering & Music (Geoff)**

**Sending Blessing - #1064**

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among people,  
to make music in the heart.

— Amen

*"This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for others, and not just be out for just ourselves. 17 If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear."*  
1 John 3:16 (The Message)

*"Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph." — Haile Selassie*