

May 4, 2025

*Third Sunday of Easter: "Expedition to Tell el-Hesi"*

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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Image courtesy of The Brain Chamber: Ancient history, ancient civilizations and historic places (<https://thebrainchamber.com/tell-el-hesi/>)

**THE SEASON OF EASTER: RESURRECTION**

Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. He is alive! We too can now choose to live out resurrection by becoming alive to new life. Jesus' death and resurrection is a statement of how reality works all the time and everywhere. He teaches us that there's a different way to live with our pain, our sadness, and our suffering. We can say, "Woe is me," and feel sorry for ourselves, or we can say, "God is even in this." (Richard Rohr)

**1. GATHERING**

**Prelude (John)**

**Call to Worship (Steve)**

**Opening Prayer (Steve)**

**Congregational Singing (Rachel)**

**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.

*"Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm." — Abraham Lincoln*

*"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." — Mattie Stepanek*

*"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will." — Mahatma Gandhi*

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Judges 16:1-22

Judges 16:1 Once Samson went to Gaza... 2 The Gazites were told, "Samson has come here." So, they circled around and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They kept quiet all night, thinking, "Let us wait until the light of the morning; then we will kill him." 3 But Samson lay only until midnight. Then at midnight he rose up, took hold of the doors of the city gate and the two posts, pulled them up, bar and all, put them on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that is in front of Hebron.

4 After this he fell in love with a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. 5 The lords of the Philistines came to her and said to her, "Coax him, and find out what makes his strength so great, and how we may overpower him..."

6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me what makes your strength so great, and how you could be bound, so that one could subdue you..."

*(On three different occasions Samson told her of three different items that would eliminate his strength, binding him with seven fresh bowstrings, tying him up with brand new rope and then braiding his seven locks of long*

**Sermon: "Expedition to Tell el-Hesi"**

Bob will be sharing a short history of Tell el-Heisi, an Early Bronze Age archaeological site located on 25 acres of the Philistine plane of Israel. He will describe some excavation methods, the current environment, and camp life.

*hair together. But each time the Philistines were unable to subdue him.)*

15 Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me three times now and have not told me what makes your strength so great."

16 Finally, after she had nagged him with her words, day after day, and pestered him, he was tired to death.

17 So he told her his whole secret, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head; for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, then my strength would leave me; I would become weak, and be like anyone else."

19 She let him fall asleep on her lap; and she called a man, and had him shave off the seven locks of his head.

21 So the Philistines seized him and... They brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles; and he ground at the mill in the prison.

22 But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Rachel)

Response

Joys & Concerns

Offering & Music (John)

Sending (Steve)



*"Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength."*  
— Saint Francis de Sales

*"Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars."*  
— Khalil Gibran

*"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."* — Helen Keller