

April 26, 2026

“The one who is righteous will live by faith”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER SEASON

Today we continue to celebrate and practice the resurrection of Christ. Death could not defeat him. Jesus lives!

1. GATHERING

Prelude (John)

Call to Worship: based on Hebrews 11 (NRSVue)

L: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

P: Indeed, by faith our ancestors received heavenly applause.

L: By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by a single word from God, so that all that is seen was made from that which is not visible.

P: By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's.

L: By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death.

P: By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, built an ark.

L: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place not knowing where he was going.

P: By faith, Sarah received the power of procreation, even though she was too old.

L: By faith Moses, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God.

P: By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau.

L: By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

P: And what more can we say? For there is not time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, or David and Samuel and the prophets,

L: or of Eve, Miriam, Esther, Deborah, Hannah, Rachel, Leah, or Naomi and Ruth. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive everything that they were promised before they died.

P: They admitted that they were merely strangers and foreigners on the earth,

ALL: They all knew that God always has something better in mind!

Opening Prayer: based on James 2 (NRSVue)

Oh Lord save us from faith that is not faith. From the temptation of claiming to have faith but without works (that kind of faith is worthless). Keep us from the blasphemy of saying to those who lack clothes, housing and food, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill." We know that such a faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. Keep us alive with your gift of a working faith. — Amen

Congregational Singing (Rachel)

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Leader: Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:6-8, 1 Corinthians 1:22-2, Matthew 17:19 20 (NRSVue)

2 Corinthians 5:6 So we are always confident, even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:22 For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Matthew 17:19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" 20 He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

Sermon: "The one who is righteous will live by faith"



The Bible talks a lot about faith. It is central to being able to follow Jesus. The importance of faith cannot be overstated. But the last several months have been a rollercoaster as we endeavor to do God's will. Does God want us to sell the building or stay? Does God prefer we buy this or that property or none? Why isn't God's will for us more clear? Is our faith too small??

"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

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." — Saint Augustine

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Rachel)

Reflections

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music (John)

Sending: #1062

Live without fear:

Your Creator has made you holy,
has always protected you,
and loves you as a mother.

Go in peace to follow the good road,
and may God's blessing be with you always.

"Seeds of faith are always within us; sometimes it takes a crisis to nourish and encourage their growth." — Susan L. Taylor

"You block your dream when you allow your fear to grow bigger than your faith." — Mary Manin Morrissey