

May 3, 2026

## “The Life and Teachings of Menno Simons: Part 1”

### FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

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*Friesland, Netherlands where Mennonites originated*

### FIFTH 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 (Leanna)

#### Call to Worship: #921

**All: True evangelical faith cannot lie dormant, but spreads itself out in all kinds of righteousness and fruits of love.**

L: it dies to flesh and blood;

**P: it destroys all forbidden lusts and desires;**

L: it seeks, serves, and fears God in its inmost soul;

**P: it clothes the naked;**

L: it feeds the hungry;

**P: it comforts the sorrowful;**

L: it shelters the destitute;

**P: it aids and consoles the sad;**

L: it does good to those who do it harm;

**P: it serves those who harm it;**

L: it prays for those who persecute it;

**P: it teaches, admonishes, and judges us with the word of God;**

L: it seeks those who are lost;

**P: it binds up what is wounded;**

L: it heals the sick;

**P: it saves what is strong;**

L: it becomes all things to all people.

**All: the persecution, suffering, and anguish that comes to it for the sake of the truth of Christ have become a glorious joy and comfort to it.**

#### Opening Prayer: #1001

Loving God, you have baptized us into one body and made us to drink the one Spirit.

Now grant us faithful hearts that we may serve one another diligently in love and find no cause to separate or divide,

Call each of us to esteem others better than ourselves so we may remain together in peace and joy.

Grant these mercies to us and all you people. -- Amen

## Congregational Singing (Cathy)

### 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: Jeremiah 30: 8-9, Revelations 11: 3-12 (NIV)

**Jeremiah 30: 8** "In that day," declares the Lord Almighty, "I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them. 9 Instead, they will serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them."

**Revelations 11:3** And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 They are "the two olive trees" and the two lampstands, and "they stand before the Lord of the earth." 5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. 6 They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. 8 Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. 9 For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language, and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. 10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

11 But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

### Sermon: "The Anabaptist Movement Spreads to Northern Europe"



In this first of a three-part series, we look into the spread of Anabaptism to Northern Europe where in the words of Menno Simons, "... fell into the hands of erring leaders." It was in this context that Menno, a Catholic Priest, left his position of respect to join and give needed guidance to the Anabaptist movement.

"The evangelical movement has become just a bit victimized by a success-oriented culture, wanting the church - like the corporation - to be successful."  
— Henri Nouwen

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Congregational Singing (Cathy)

#### Reflections

#### Joys and Concerns

#### Offering & Music (Leanna)

#### Sending: #927

Read aloud from the hymnal

"Those issues are biblical issues: to care for the sick, to feed the hungry, to stand up for the oppressed. I contend that if the evangelical community became more biblical, everything would change." — Tony Campolo

"To lose yourself in righteous service to others can lift your sights and get your mind off personal problems, or at least put them in proper focus." — Ezra Taft Benson