

February 8, 2026

“Finding Meaning in Exile”

In-Person (Greyrock Commons) and ZOOM Meeting

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

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SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany means “to make manifest.” This is the season when we see Jesus’ divine mission revealed to the world. After delivering their monetary tributes and pledging their allegiance to their new king, those intrepid astronomers climbed back into their saddles again. But the journey home was via a different path since being wholly transformed, they could not go back the way they came. Today, the star still leads us to reflect its light.

1. GATHERING

Prelude (Stan)

Call to Worship (Steve) — Psalm 137:1-6, Common English Bible (CEB)

L: Alongside Babylon's streams, there we sat down, crying because we remembered Zion.

P: We hung our lyres up in the trees there

L: because that's where our captors asked us to sing; our tormentors requested songs of joy:

P: "Sing us a song about Zion!" they said.

L: But how could we possibly sing the LORD's song on foreign soil?

P: Jerusalem! If I forget you, let my strong hand wither!

L: Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth if I don't remember you, if I don't make Jerusalem my greatest joy.

“Only the misfortune of exile can provide the in-depth understanding and the overview into the realities of the world.”
— Stefan Zweig

“Exile is like death. You cannot understand it until it happens to you.”
— Golshifteh Farahani

Opening Prayer (Steve) — Isaiah 40:26-31 (CEB)

Look up at the sky and consider: Who created these? The one who brings out their attendants one by one, summoning each of them by name. Because of God's great strength and mighty power, not one is missing. Why do you say, Jacob, and declare, Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD my God ignores my predicament"? Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted.

Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.

Congregational Singing (Stan)

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: Isaiah 41:8-10

But you, Israel my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, offspring of Abraham, whom I love, you whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant; I chose you and didn't reject you."

Don't fear, because I am with you; don't be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will surely help you; I will hold you with my righteous strong hand.



Sermon: "Finding Meaning In Exile!"

The entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is filled with stories of God's people who are either journeying to, returning from or living in exile. Maybe this is a central theme an ever necessary reality for all God's people in every age?

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Stan)

Reflections and Responses

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music (Stan)

Benediction and Sending (Steve) —Jeremiah 29:4-7 (CEB)

The LORD of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims to all the exiles I have carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and settle down; cultivate gardens and eat what they produce.

Get married and have children; then help your sons find wives and your daughters find husbands in order that they too may have children. Increase in number there so that you don't dwindle away.

Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because your future depends on its welfare.

"Seeking to forget makes exile all the longer; the secret of redemption lies in remembrance."

— Richard von Weizsaecker

"We learn, grow and become compassionate and generous as much through exile as homecoming, as much through loss as gain, as much through giving things away as in receiving what we believe to be our due."

— David Whyte