

August 13, 2023

“Pushing the Frontier”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



SEASON OF PENTACOST

1. GATHERING

“With an undefended heart, we can fall in love with life over and over every day. We can become children of wonder, grateful to be walking on earth, grateful to belong with each other and to all of creation. We can find our true refuge in every moment, in every breath.” — Tara Brach

Musical Prelude (Stan)

Call to Worship (Steve)

L: Fleeing persecution, incarceration, torture, slavery and death at the fiery stake, they arrived on distant shores, seeking peace and permission to live as peaceful people.

P: Thank you God for preserving our ancestors through the wilderness of darkness and despair.

L: Into the land of the Pohatan, Nottoway, and Shawnee peoples they came carrying little to nothing, but there they found streams that flowed clean, woodlands full of game, and deep dark soil for their plows to turn.

P: Forgive us and our ancestors for not fully understanding the full costs of such bounty.

Opening Prayer - #1013 (Steve)

L: But not only did we manage to survive, but we thrived in both the freedom to worship and to accumulate vast amounts of material goods.

P: Help us oh God not to forget your commandments and to share your bounty with all.

L: And for those of us who at this moment gather on the ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne and Ute Nations...

ALL: Help us to honor you by continuing to seek your true peace that only comes when we seek justice for all who now live in this land.

Congregational Singing (Stan)

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.

"... we celebrate all the gifts the world and nature make available to us. We recognize our complete dependence on its bounty. And we acknowledge the need for good stewardship to preserve its fruits for future generations."
— John Hoeven

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:6-15

Deuteronomy 8:6 Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in those ways. **7** For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, **8** a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, **9** a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.

10 You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that has been given to you.

11 Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep all the commandments, ordinances, and statutes, which I am commanding you today.

12 When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, **13** and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, **14** then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, **15** and who led you through the great and terrible wilderness.



SERMON: "Pushing the Frontier" (Keith M.)

Today we will hear more about Keith's ancestors as he discusses a number of events: a land dispute, the first Mennonite settlement in Virginia, the move from Maryland and Pennsylvania to Virginia, and on to Ohio, and the marriage that consolidated Keith's Church of England tobacco planter and slave owner ancestor with his Swiss German Anabaptist ancestor.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Stan)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Stan)

Sending: Eagle Poem by Joy Harjo (Steve)

To pray you open your whole self
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you can't see, can't hear;
Can't know except in moments Steadily growing, and
in languages That aren't always sound but other
Circles of motion.
Like eagle that Sunday morning Over Salt River.
Circled in blue sky In wind, swept our hearts clean
With sacred wings.
We see you, see ourselves and know That we must

"The more often we see the things around us - even the beautiful and wonderful things - the more they become invisible to us. That is why we often take for granted the beauty of this world: the flowers, the trees, the birds, the clouds - even those we love. Because we see things so often, we see them less and less." — Joseph B. Wirthlin

take the utmost care And kindness in all things.
Breathe in, knowing we are made of All this, and
breathe, knowing
We are truly blessed because we Were born, and die
soon within a True circle of motion,
Like eagle rounding out the morning Inside us.
We pray that it will be done
In beauty.
In beauty.

