

July 2, 2023
"Singing for Our Lives"

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

"Music is the greatest communication in the world. Even if people don't understand the language that you're singing in, they still know good music when they hear it." — Lou Rawls

Musical Prelude (John)

Opening Prayer - Psalms 84:1-9 (Steve)

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! 2 My soul longs for you, indeed it faints for your courts O Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to you the living God... 4 Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. (Selah)

Call to Worship - Psalms 100:2 (Steve)

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing. 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, and we belong to God, like sheep grazing safely in God's pasture. 4 Enter through the gates with thanksgiving and into God's courtyard with praise. Give thanks and blessings to God. 5 For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love and faithfulness endures to all generations.

Congregational Singing (John & Cathy)

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.

"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." — Song of Solomon 2:12

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Isaiah 35:5-10 and Acts 16:20-30

Isaiah 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert... 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Acts 16:20 When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews 21 and are advocating customs that are not lawful..." 23 After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely... 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to

them. 26 Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

Revelation 5:8 When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation..." Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"



SERMON: "Singing for Our Lives" (Steve)

Throughout scripture we are told to sing loud and constantly, regardless of the circumstances that we might find ourselves in.

Only prayer is encouraged more often than singing. Perhaps we sing for ourselves as much as we sing for God's benefit - singing is essentially a means for our own survival! Singing is good for you - a scientific fact. And more singing with others is even better!

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (John & Cathy)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (John)

Sending - Ephesians 5:17-20 (Steve)

Ephesians 5:17 So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, 20 giving thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*"The only thing better than singing is more singing."
— Ella Fitzgerald*

*"Nature is the one song of praise that never stops singing."
— Richard Rohr*