

**March 26, 2023**

***Fifth Sunday of Lent: "True Humans are Made of Flesh and Bone!"***

**FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP**

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

**Worship: 10:00 AM**

**Pastor: Steve Ramer**

**Cell: 970-412-7510**



**LENT 2023: AUTHENTIC HUMANITY**

Becoming authentically human is first and foremost about what God is doing. But we need to ask ourselves, what does it mean to be images of the God who created us? What does it mean to be reshaped into the image of the Son of God who, with unparalleled authenticity, lived, died, and lives anew in our true humanity? We are surrounded by a host of pressures that would squeeze and contort us into less-than-human. Lent is a season to release that pressure and to repent (turn from) all that would distort and reduce our humanity.

**1. GATHERING**

**Musical Prelude (John)**

**Call to Worship – Based on Ezekiel 37 (Katie)**

**Opening Prayer (Katie)**

**Congregational Singing (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.

*"Everybody has losses - it's unavoidable in life. Sharing our pain is very healing." — Isabel Allende*

*"The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing... not healing, not curing... that is a friend who cares." — Henri Nouwen*

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scriptures: John 11 (selected verses)

1 Now someone named Lazarus from Bethany had fallen ill; it was also the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived... 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, one of your loved ones is sick."

6 But when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he lingered two more days... 17 So when Jesus did finally arrive, he learned that Lazarus had been buried four days earlier. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, only two miles away, 19 and many Judeans had come to console Martha and Mary as they grieved their brother's death. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, while Mary stayed at home.

21 "Master," Martha said, "if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

25 Jesus replied, "I am resurrection and life; those who believe in me, even if they die, will live again, but those who are alive and believe in me, they will never die..."

32 When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "If you had been here, my brother would still be alive."

33 When Jesus saw her crying, and those who accompanied her also crying, he was deeply moved, 34 and asked, "Where is he?"

"Lord, come and see," the replied.

35 Then Jesus began to cry.

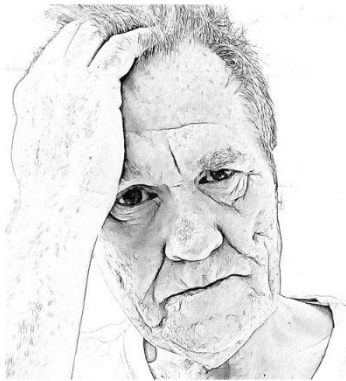
36 Some said, "See how much he loved him!" 37 But others replied, "He opened the eyes of the blind but failed to kept this man from dying?"

38 Still greatly disturbed, Jesus arrived at the tomb; a cave with a large stone blocking the entrance. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone,"

But Martha replied, "But master, by this time the body will stink since its been at least four days!"

43 Then Jesus shouted at the tope of his voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of burial cloth and his face was also covered in cloth. And Jesus instructed them, "Unbind him, and set him free."

*"I think that to grieve and to deal and cope, you have to be actively processing the information. Have your moments, be broken, and allow yourself to fully express pain." — Jason Reynolds*



### SERMON: "True Humans are Made of Flesh and Bone!" (Steve)

We are made to feel pain, be hurt, and grieve our losses! But somewhere in our brain or maybe our soul, we are also engineered to hear the voice of Jesus who is calling us too, to come out from our caves of despair, grief, and self-pity. Like Lazarus, Jesus wants us to leave our fears and pettiness behind and fully embrace the hope that can truly fill us with life again!

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Congregational Singing (Cathy)

### Response (everyone)

### Joys and Concerns (everyone)

### Offering & Music (John)

### Sending - #1065 (Steve)

Whatever wilderness the Spirit  
Has brought you to:

Walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God;  
Walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High;  
Walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. — Amen

*"Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human." — Henri Nouwen*