

May 21, 2023

*“The First Mennonite Church in America”*

**FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP**

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

**Worship: 10:00 AM**

**Pastor: Steve Ramer**

**Cell: 970-412-7510**



*Germantown Mennonite Church, Philadelphia, PA (Wikipedia)*

**EASTER SEASON 2023: LIVING THE RESURRECTION, FULLY ALIVE IN CHRIST!**

During Lent we explored some of the things that make us "truly human." The season of Easter began early on the morning of Easter Sunday and it brings forward a new call — to become truly human, face to face with the totally unexpected, simply mind-boggling, and truly life changing power of Christ that now lives within each of us.

**1. GATHERING**

**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 Delaware, Lenape, and Susquehannock peoples they came carrying little to nothing, but where 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.

*“I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.” — Jimmy Dean*

**L:** But not only did we manage to survive, 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.

## Opening Prayer (Steve)

## 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.

*"It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union. And we formed it, not to give the blessings of liberty, but to secure them; not to the half of ourselves and the half of our posterity, but to the whole people - women as well as men." — Susan B. Anthony*

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:6

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: "The First American Mennonite Church" (Keith)

Keith continues his ancestor exploration with the development of the Germantown settlement and its expansion north and west. Most importantly, he describes the founding of the first Mennonite churches in America. He also presents stories about German immigrants fighting to be recognized as legitimate residents/citizens of the Pennsylvania Colony. And he closes with two stories about life on the frontier for these immigrants.

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Congregational Singing (Stan)

### Response (everyone)

### Joys and Concerns (everyone)

### Offering & Music (Stan)

### Sending - Eagle Poem by Joy Harjo

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  
take the utmost care And kindness in all things.



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead*

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.