

May 28, 2023

“The Day of Pentecost: God’s Diversifying Insurrection!”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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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

“We need to give each other the space to grow, to be ourselves, to exercise our diversity. We need to give each other space so that we may both give and receive such beautiful things as ideas, openness, dignity, joy, healing, and inclusion.” — Max de Pree

Musical Prelude (John)

Call to Worship - #877 (Steve)

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

L: Enter our silences.

All: Come, Holy Spirit,

L: Into the depths of our longing.

All: Come Holy Spirit,

L: Unmask our pretending. Enter our trusting,

Enter our fearing,

Enter our letting go,

Enter our holding back.

All: Come, Holy Spirit,

L: Embrace and free us.

Opening Prayer - #876 (Steve)

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.

"Isn't it amazing that we are all made in God's image, and yet there is so much diversity among his people?"

— Desmond Tutu

"Diversity is about all of us, and about us having to figure out how to walk through this world together."

— Jacqueline Woodson

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Genesis 11, Acts 2:1-8

Genesis 11 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly."

And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves..."

The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the Lord said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.

Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech." So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel,

because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth...

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. 5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

SERMON: "The Day of Pentecost: God's Diversifying Insurrection!" (Steve)



There are many harsh and angry divisions in our society almost every current issue; gender, sexuality, guns, abortion, trans affirming care, drag queen story hours, the role of government in taking care of the poor, etc. But from the very beginning, God found joy in the diversity of all creation. The day of Pentecost is another reminder of the power of God's desire for us to continue in this wild diversity.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (John & Cathy)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (John)

Sending - #1066 (Steve)

"It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength."

— Maya Angelou