May 7, 2023

"Buddha and Jesus: What Can They Teach Us?"

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM   **Pastor:** Steve Ramer   **Cell:** 970-412-7510

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 (John)

Call to Worship (Lynette)

> *"Some of us think holding on makes us strong; but sometimes it is letting go."* — Hermann Hesse

Leader: Has the whole community assembled?
The Sangha: The whole community has assembled.
Leader: Is there harmony in the community?
The Sangha: Yes, there is harmony.
Leader: Do not utter words that can create discord and cause the community to break. Make every effort to reconcile and resolve all conflicts, however small. This is the eighth precept of the Order of Interbeing. Have you studied, practiced and
observed it during the past two weeks?
The Sangha: *[silence and reflection]*

Opening Prayer (Lynette)

May the Love
Which overcomes all differences,
Which heals all wounds,
Which put to flight all fears,
Which reconciles all who are separated,
Be in us and among us,
Now and always.

Congregational Singing (all)

Passing of the Peace: #904

Hear the words of Jesus:
"Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
And do not let them be afraid."
Now we share a sign of peace with one another.

> "People have a hard time letting go of their suffering. Out of a fear of the unknown, they prefer suffering that is familiar."
> — Thich Nhat Hanh

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Jesus says, 'Do to others as you would have them do to you.' The Buddha says, 'Consider others as yourself.'

Jesus says, 'If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also.' The Buddha says, 'If anyone should give you a blow with his hand, with a stick, or with a knife, you should abandon any desires to hurt him and utter no evil words.'

The Buddha says, 'If you do not tend one another, then who is there to tend you? Whoever would tend me, he should tend the sick.' Jesus says, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

The Buddha says, 'Let us live happily, possessing nothing; let us feed on joy, like radiant gods.' Jesus says, 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.'

Jesus says, 'Why do you see the splinter in someone else's eye and never notice the log in your own? The Buddha says, 'The faults of others are easier to see than one's own.'

SERMON: "Buddha and Jesus: What Can They Teach Us?" (Lynette)

Join Lynette as she shares a visual glimpse at Buddhism in Nepal and Thailand from her most recent trip to those areas. Today she will take a brief look at the teachings of Buddha and Jesus.

How did Jesus, living 500 years after Buddha and 3,000 miles away, embody teachings so similar in nature to his predecessor? What can we learn from our Buddhist sisters and brothers about detachment and "letting go"?

On many levels, Jesus and Buddha talked about the same experience of transformation. In the end, all spirituality really is about transformation: dying before we die and being reborn as our truer selves.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (all)

Response (all)

Joys and Concerns (all)

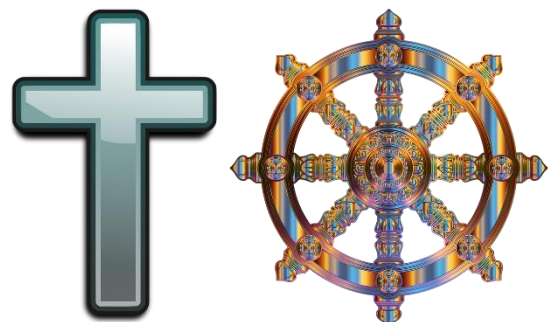**Offering & Music (John and Katelyn)**

Sending: #909 (Steve)

God forgives you.
Forgive others.
Forgive yourself.
(silence)
Be at peace.

> "Letting go helps us to live in a more peaceful state of mind and helps restore our balance. It allows others to be responsible for themselves and for us to take our hands off situations that do not belong to us. This frees us from unnecessary stress." — Melody Beattie