

October 29, 2023

“The Sermon on the Amount”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



Welcoming the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in our congregations, we are liberated from a static understanding of the church, which often makes us allies of the status quo. As we open ourselves to the re-creating and animating power of the Holy Spirit, we become agents of healing and hope in the world.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (John)

Call to Worship (Steve)

Leader: What will you offer the body of Christ today?

People: Bring all that you have. Bring all that you are.

Leader: The gifts of silence and the gifts of words are welcome.

People: The gifts of leading and the gifts of following are welcome.

Leader: The gifts of doubt and the gifts of faith are welcome.

Opening Prayer (Steve)

Opening Song (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.

People: The gifts of the head and the gifts of the heart are welcome.

Leader: The gifts of planning and the gifts of spontaneity are welcome.

People: May all that we are as individuals come together to strengthen the living body of the church, Christ Incarnate.

“We learn, grow and become compassionate and generous as much through exile as homecoming, as much through loss as gain, as much through giving things away as in receiving what we believe to be our due.” — David Whyte

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Luke 16:13, Mark 12:41-44, 1 Corinthians 9:6-8, 1 Timothy 6:10

Luke 16:13 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Mark 12: 41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.

44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

SERMON: “*The Sermon on the Amount!*” (Steve)



2 Corinthians 9: 6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

Welcome to Steve's annual stewardship sermon where he hopes to inspire all of us to pledge more money toward next year's budget.

It can be difficult to talk about money. But God wants more from us than just our money, and God seems more concerned with how it is given than with how much is given.

“For it is in giving that we receive.” — Francis of Assisi

“Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.” — Lao Tzu

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

a. Congregational Singing (Cathy)

b. Response (everyone)

c. Joys and Concerns (everyone)

d. Offering & Music (Katelyn)

e. Sending (all)

Christ has no body now on earth but ours.
Ours are the only hands with which Christ can do his work,

Ours are the only feet with which Christ can go about the world,

Ours are the only eyes through which Christ's compassion can shine forth on a troubled world.

Christ has no body on earth now but ours.

“It is a curious phenomena that God has made the hearts of the poor, rich and those of the rich, poor.”

— Vinoba Bhave

“The world is richer than ever, and the gaps between rich and poor are wider.” — Anna Lindh

“The rich stick together; the poor and the marginalized are thrown together.” — Tariq Ramadan