

April 28, 2024

“Compassion Never Goes Out of Style”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



SEASON OF EASTER

A very large stone was used to seal Jesus' fate as just another tragically failed Messiah — dead, entombed, and soon forgotten. Yet it could not contain him nor the new questions that carries us into the Easter Season. The women wonder as they approach, "Who will move the stone for us?" The figures in dazzling apparel ask, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Perhaps the power of love can bring us new life!

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (John)

Call to Worship: #921 (Steve)

Opening Prayer: #1016

Congregational Singing:

#56 – “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” (Green)

#779 – “You’re Not Alone” (Purple)

“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

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.

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Matthew 20:29-34

29 As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Jesus. 30 There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" 31 The crowd sternly ordered them to shut up; but instead they shouted even louder, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!"

32 Jesus came to a standstill and called them, saying, "What is it that you want me to do for you?" 33 They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes see again."

SERMON: "Compassion Never Goes Out of Style"

The news bludgeons us with stories of callousness and cruelty every day. But the truth is, compassion and empathy are actually making a comeback in our world. Will our perceptions also make the necessary adjustments?

34 Moved with compassion, Jesus then touched their eyes and immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

Colossians 3:1-2,12

1 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth... 12 And as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing:

#778 – "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" (Purple)

Response

Joys and Concerns

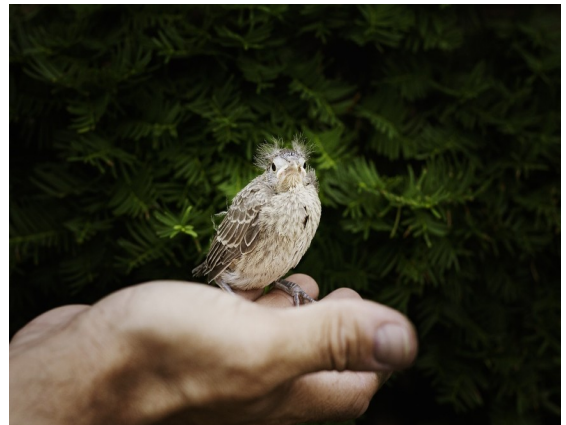
Offering & Music (John)

In a world where we so often dwell on what we lack, you are a God of abundance. In the face of hunger, you call us to share food. In the face of poverty, to share resources. In the face of despair, to share hope. Accept these offerings as a sign that all we have is yours. We trust in your abundant love that flows in us and through us. Amen

Sending (#1057)

May the Son of God,
who is already formed in you,
grow in you
so that for you
he will become immeasurable,
and that in you he will become
laughter,
exultation,
the fullness of joy
which no one will take from you.

"The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another." — Thomas Merton



*"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."
— Coretta Scott King*

"The highest hallmark of a civilized society is not the rapidity by which it exacts vengeance, but its ability to hold victim and victimizer in its compassionate heart." — Father Greg Boyle