

May 5, 2024

*“When is Occupation Justified?”*

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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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: #1038 (Steve)**

Peace is not the product of terror or fear.  
Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.  
Peace is not the silent result of violent oppression.  
Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.  
Peace is dynamic.  
Peace is generous,  
a right and a duty,  
each one feeling in the right place  
as part of this beautiful family.

**Opening Prayer: #1033**

*“To sin by silence, when we should protest, makes cowards out of men.” — Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

*“Peaceful, lawful protest - if it is effective - is innately disruptive of 'business as usual.' That is why it is effective.” — Naomi Wolf*

## Congregational Singing

### 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

### Mark 11:15-19

11:15 Then they came to Jerusalem. Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves;

16 and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

17 He was teaching and saying, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."

18 And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching.

19 And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

### SERMON: "When is Occupation Justified?"



Various forms of protest, including encampments and occupation of buildings, have spread across college campuses in the past couple of weeks. These actions have been met with both praises and rousing condemnations. They have also been met in some cases with a robust response by law enforcement. How do we respond as people of God?

*"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." — Elie Wiesel*

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Congregational Singing

#### 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 (#1049)

Blessed are the ones who dance in the corridors of death,  
Who sing in the hallways of terror,  
who laugh in the prisons of fear,  
who shout across the silencing walls,  
who love beyond the borders of hatred,  
who live to welcome home freedom,  
who dies never turning their heads,  
who return as the rising hope.



*"Against eternal injustice, man must assert justice, and to protest against the universe of grief, he must create happiness." — Albert Camus*