

Welcome to

# First Mennonite Church


*Denver, CO*



## What is God Like?

**March 27, 2022**

*That you may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,  
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

We invite you to join the congregation in singing the songs marked with .

## Entering Worship

### Pre-Service Music

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling  
Here I Am, Lord*

### Welcome & Announcements

#### *Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing*

#### Voices Together 7

Vs 1 Come, let us all unite to sing, God is love.  
Let heav'n and earth their praises bring, God is love.  
Let ev'ry soul from sin awake,  
Let ev'ry heart sweet music make,  
And sing with us for Jesus' sake, for God is love.

*Refrain* God is love! God is love!  
Come, let us all unite to sing that God is love.

Vs 2 O tell to earth's remotest bound, God is love.  
In Christ we have redemption found, God is love.  
His blood has washed our sins away,  
Wis Spirit turned our night to day,  
And now we can rejoice to say that God is love.

Vs 3 What though our mortal flesh shall fail, God is love!  
Through Christ we shall o'er death prevail, God is love!  
While endless ages roll along,  
We'll triumph with the heav'nly throng,  
And this shall be our sweetest song, that God is love!

Vs 4 How happy is our portion here, God is love.  
These promises our spirits cheer, God is love.  
God is our sun and shield by day,  
our help, our hope, our strength and stay;  
and will be with us all the way: our God is love.

## Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**People: For once we were lost and felt so far away;  
now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Leader: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

**People: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

Leader: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

**All: Amen!**

## Passing the Peace

### ♪ *Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us*

VT 718

Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,  
For we need you to help us find our way.  
Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us,  
For we need your strength from day to day.  
There's no other we can turn to who can help us face another day.  
Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,  
For we need you to help us find our way.

## Invocation

### ♪ *Call for Children: Come and See* (vs. 1)

VT 282

Vs 1 "Come and see, come and see, I am the way and the truth," said he.  
"Follow me, follow me, come as a child, O come and see."

## Children's Time

### ♪ *Come and See* (vs. 1 & 3)

VT 282

Vs 1 "Come and see, come and see, I am the way and the truth," said he.  
"Follow me, follow me, come as a child, O come and see."

### Verse 3

Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.  
Christe, Christe, Christe eleison.

### Descant

Christe, Christe, adoramus te.  
Alleluia, Kyrie eleison.

# Faith Reflection

## Chimes

### Scripture

**Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with [b] the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

♪ *Far, Far Away / I Will Arise* (vs. 1-3)

VT 300

Vs 1 Far, far away from my loving father,  
I had been wand’ring, wayward, wild,  
fearing only lest his anger  
overtake his sinful child.

*Refrain* I will arise and go to Jesus,  
he will embrace me in his arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
oh, there are ten thousand charms.

Vs 2 Fain had I fed on the husks around me,  
till to myself I came, and said,  
“Plenty have my father’s servants;  
perish I for want of bread.”

Vs 3 I will arise, though faint and weary,  
home to my father I will go.  
Woe to me that e’er I wandered,  
ah, that I such need should know.

## Meditation

## “What is God Like?”

### ♪ *Far, Far Away / I Will Arise* (vs. 3-5)

VT 300

Vs 3 I will arise, though faint and weary,  
home to my father I will go.  
Woe to me that e'er I wandered,  
ah, that I such need should know.

*Refrain* I will arise and go to Jesus,  
he will embrace me in his arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
oh, there are ten thousand charms.

Vs 4 “Father,” I’ll say, “I have sinned before thee,  
No more may I be called thy son.  
Make me only as thy servant;  
pity me, a wretch undone!”

Vs 5 Then I arose and came to my father.  
Mercy amazing! Love unknown!  
He beheld me, ran, embraced me,  
pardoned, welcomed, called me “son”!

## Chimes

## Community & Sharing

### Offering

*Hymn of Promise* (by Natalie Sleeth; arr. John Carter)

### Prayer & Benediction

### ♪ *We Are People of God’s Peace* (vs. 1, 3, 4)

VT 797

Vs 1 We are people of God’s peace as a new creation.  
Love unites and strengthens us at this celebration.  
Sons and daughters of the Lord, serving one another,  
a new covenant of peace binds us all together.

Vs 3 We are children of God's peace in this new creation,  
spreading joy and happiness through God's great salvation.  
Hope we bring in spirit meek, in our daily living.  
Peace with ev'ryone we seek, good for evil giving.

Vs 4 We are servants of God's peace, of the new creation.  
Choosing peace, we faithfully serve with heart's devotion.  
Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, confidence will give us.  
Christ the Lord is our defense; Christ will never leave us.

## **Congregational Sharing & Introductions**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **♪ To God Be the Glory**

**VT 84**

Vs 1 To God be the glory, great things he hath done,  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Refrain* Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give him the glory, great things he hath done.

Vs 2 Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To ev'ry believer the promise of God.  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Vs 3 Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder,  
Our transport, when Jesus we see.

## **After the Service- Fellowship Time**

Join us in the Community Center for fellowship and refreshments.

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## **Acknowledgements for Worship Resources**

### *Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing*

Text: anon., ca. 1812, *Millennial Praises*, 1812

Music: Edmund S Lorenz, *Notes of Triumph: For the Sunday School*, 1886

“Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God”

By Nancy Townley

### *Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us*

Text: Gloria Gaither

Music: William J Gaither

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### *Come and See*

Text: Marilyn Houser Hamm, 1974, *Sing and Rejoice*, 1979; adapt. from Greek and Latin liturgies

Music: Marilyn Houser Hamm, 1974, *Sing and Rejoice*, 1979

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### *Far, Far Away / I Will Arise*

Text: based on Luke 15:1-24; vers. anon., “The Prodigal son,” *Gospel Songs*, 1874

Music: American traditional, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Charles H Webb

### *We Are People of God’s Peace*

Text: based on Menno Simons, *Reply to False Accusations*, 1552; stanzas 1, 3, 4 vers. David Augsburg, 1978; adapt. Esther Bergen, 1990

Music: Johann Horn, *Ein Gesangbuch der Brüder im Behemen und Merherrn*, 1544; rev. In *Catholicum Hymnologium Germanicum*, 1584

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### *To God Be the Glory*

Text: Fanny J Crosby, *Brightest and Best*, 1875

Music: William H Doane, *Brightest and Best*, 1875



# Leadership for this Service

**Worship Leaders:** Lynn Amstutz and Glenn Balzer

**Meditation:** Glenn Balzer

**Song Leader:** Myrna Schmidt

**Musician:** Romaine Anderson

**Children’s Time:** Vicky Mierau

**Sanctuary Arts:** Paul Johnson and Roberta Kandel

**Cover Art:** [“The Prodigal Son”](#) by Kaye Redman

**Sound Tech:** Randy Friesen

**Video Tech:** Steve KandeLind

**Bulletin & PowerPoint Production:** Marie Voth

**Lead Ushers:** Ralph & Judi Nafziger

*Thanks to all who generously shared their attention and talents to make this service a time of encouragement and challenge in our walk of faith.*

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**First Mennonite Church of Denver**

430 W 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, Denver CO 80204 • 303-892-1038

[office@fmcdenver.org](mailto:office@fmcdenver.org) • [www.fmcdenver.org](http://www.fmcdenver.org) • [Facebook.com/FMCDenver](https://www.facebook.com/FMCDenver)

**Glenn Balzer, Pastor** ([glennb@fmcdenver.org](mailto:glennb@fmcdenver.org))

**Paul Johnson, Facility Manager** ([paulj@fmcdenver.org](mailto:paulj@fmcdenver.org))

**Marie Voth, Administrator** ([mariev@fmcdenver.org](mailto:mariev@fmcdenver.org))

**Pastor Congregation Relations Committee** ([pcrc@fmcdenver.org](mailto:pcrc@fmcdenver.org))