

We are in Exile

This ancient message rings down through the annals of history to Christians living in the most powerful and prosperous country in the history of earthly empires: "You have forgotten you are exiles." You have forgotten that you are foreigners in a foreign land. You are citizens of heaven. You are the Temple, the very dwelling place of the Living God. (How do you respond to the word "exile?" How might the concept of exile animate your spiritual formation?)

Prayer Corner

Skip Focht recovering from another surgery

Gladys Jacobs is not feeling well



Member Engagement All Church Pot-Luck

TODAY!!!!



TODAY!!!!

September 18th @ 11:30AM

Gathering Place

Bring a main dish and a salad or dessert

Church will be providing ice tea, lemonade and water.

Rev. Rob Kazee, Lead Pastor
Email: rjkazee@aol.com Cell: 202-997-1222
10:00AM - 11:30 AM Worship Service
11:30 AM - 12:30PM Sunday School
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WELCOME



Worship Folder

New Cumberland Church of the Nazarene

Order of Worship
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
18 September 2016

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Offering
Scripture Reading: Zechariah 1:3, 2:1-13, 4:6
Sermon Series: "Majoring in the Minors"
Sermon Ten: Zechariah

We Come to the Table

Prayer of Consecration
The Lord's Prayer
We Eat and Drink Together
Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Gossiping the Good Stuff
Doxology
Blessing and Sending

*If you are a guest with us today,
Please take time to fill out a Connection Card.
The ushers will be picking them up
later in the service.
Thank You*

Please visit us on our website, www.ncnazarene.org
for details of events.
Also you will find, photos, monthly newsletters,
bulletins, online giving and you can also
send prayer request to the prayer chain.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sept 18	Member Engagement All Church Pot-Luck	11:00AM
Sept 24	Doug and Allie's Wedding	3:00PM
Sept 19	Financial Peace University	7:00PM
Sept 26	Financial Peace University	7:00PM
Oct 1	First Saturday Prayer then Breakfast	8:30AM

Sermon Reflection Guide
Sermon Series: Majoring in the Minors
Sermon Ten: Zechariah

Zechariah

1:3

Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts."

2:1-13

Up, up! Flee from the land of the north, says the Lord; for I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven, says the Lord. Up! Escape to Zion, you that live with daughter Babylon. For thus said the Lord of hosts (after his glory sent me) regarding the nations that plundered you: Truly, one who touches you touches the apple of my eye. See now, I am going to raise my hand against them, and they shall become plunder for their own slaves. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me. Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord. Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all people, before the Lord; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

4:6

"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

Question for Everyone:

(1) My default mode is optimism and hope. I'm often accused of being naïve. (10) My default mode is cynicism and doubt. I've never been accused of being naïve. Where are you on this spectrum?

Cynicism

I won't be too hard on the Israelites. Admittedly, when I place myself in their sandals, I imagine my response to the prophetic invitation would have been cynicism. . . . It takes genuine courage and creativity to see God at work when all evidence is to the contrary. It takes no effort whatsoever to be cynical. Cynicism is easy. Faith is hard. (Given what we know about the context of the original hears how would you have responded to the prophetic invitation to return to God? Why?)

Cruel

My response to Zechariah: 'Come on Zechariah surely you would have to concede that God's invitation to return seems rather cruel in light of the bleak reality that surround us.' (Have you ever been tempted to cynicism in light of cruel realities? Tell the story. How do you choose to place your trust in the goodness of God when life becomes cruel?)

The Prophets

From what you know about the prophets, pre-exilic, exilic, and post-exilic, which had the hardest job? Which context most resonates with our current status?

The Power of Culture

The fact of the matter is a number of Israelites decided to stay in Babylon. We can only guess at why they stayed. It is likely many of the younger folk were more Babylonian in culture than Israeli. I've found that it's really hard not to be profoundly formed by the unseen, yet powerful forces of culture. For Christians, sometimes these forces are benign and other times these forces need to be resisted at all cost. (In our context, which cultural practices and attitudes should be resisted at all cost?)