

Our mission is to learn the way of Jesus together as we invite others to join us at His Table.

Our Common Practices

We Gather

We gather for worship more often than not.
We gather in smaller groups to connect, learn, and grow.

We create hospitable space for one another.

We Grow

We attend the means of grace daily. (i.e. We attend to the presence of God through Scripture reading and meditation, prayer on behalf of others and myself, breath prayer, spiritual reading and study...).

We nurture our faith.

We attend to relationships that promote growth.
We develop and learn as human beings made in the image of God.

We Give

We are a generous people who give our time and resources to the mission of God and the world.

We tithe as the means through which our community enjoys fiscal health so as to minister generously.

We Go

We follow Jesus into the world as His healing presence.

We help the vulnerable among us.

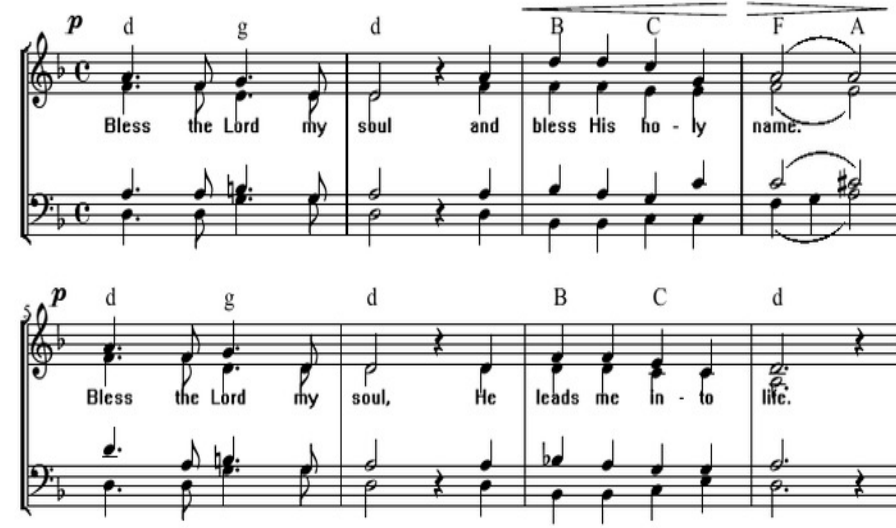
We go into the world offering Jesus' invitation to gather at His Table.

A Breath Prayer for the Easter Season:

"I put my trust in Your unfailing love."

Bless the Lord my soul

m.: J. Berthier, Taizé



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CHURCH OF
 THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE
CHURCH



Order of Worship
3 May 2020
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading from Psalm 23

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Sermon Series: The Spirit of Easter
Sermon: "Easter Family"
Scripture Reading: Acts 2.42-27

We Come to the Table

Prayers of the People
Song of Preparation
Passing the Peace of Christ
Prayer of Confession and 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

Sermon Reflection Guide

Acts 2.42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Question for Everyone

(1) Church, meh, I can take it or leave it. (10) I love the Church. My life would be much less meaningful and a great deal more lonely without the Church. Where would you place yourself on this range?

Easter Family

On Easter, Jesus was raised from the grave to new life. But he didn't dawdle. He revealed himself to his friends. He prepared a few meals for them. He taught them. Then He ascended to the Father, enthroned in glory by way of the cross. After the ascension, Jesus' friends waited and prayed together. Their prayers were answered decisively. Jesus filled up their community with His very Presence. The Spirit of Jesus created and empowered a new kind family, an Easter Family called Church. This is the culmination of Jesus' journey from the grave to Pentecost. The entire journey was about creating an Easter Family. Think about the metaphor of family as applied to the Church. What are its strengths and weaknesses? How do you respond to the notion that Jesus' journey from the grave to Pentecost was about creating Church?

The Church is My Mother But . . .

Dorothy Day (the great Roman Catholic prophet of justice) said: "As to the Church, where else shall we go, except to the Bride of Christ, one flesh with Christ? Though she is a harlot at times, she is our Mother." Think about the metaphors in the Scriptures for church (temple, sheepfold, bride of Christ, body of Christ . . .) What do they teach us about church? In what ways is Day correct when she says the church "is a harlot at times"? And what of this metaphor of church as mother? How so you respond to this?

The Church is a Hospital

A church is more like the Covid-19 wing of a hospital than it is like the Louvre in Paris. People don't get into the church because they are beautiful models of humanity. People get into the church because they are sick and they need some significant life support to get them healed and healthy. So, if a local church serves as a hospital what might one expect as a participant in this healing community?

Constant in Their Attention

Our early sisters and brothers gave constant attention to the apostle's teachings, about what it means to live by the confession that Jesus is Lord. They gave constant attention to fellowship. This means that the Church was defined by a shared life. Their shared faith in Christ created a shared life with Christ and one another. They gave constant attention to the breaking of bread. They ate a special meal hosted by Jesus. Finally, they gave constant attention to a robust prayer life. They learned the way of Jesus together. Is there another way?