

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

Two systems of musical notation for piano. The first system has a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody is in the treble clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: d, g, d, B, C, F, A. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul and bless His ho - ly name." The second system continues the melody with chords d, B, C, d. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul, He leads me in - to life."

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CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE CHURCH



Order of Worship
10 May 2020
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading from Psalm 31

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Sermon Series: The Spirit of Easter
Sermon: "Easter Poise"
Scripture Reading: Acts 7.54-60

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 7.54-60

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Question for Everyone:

When encountering hostility or relational drama my first impulse is to (1) fight and face the drama head or (10) flee by avoiding relational conflict at all cost. Where are you on this fight or flight range?

A Strange Easter Story

Maybe Stephen's story functions as a means of perspective in the midst of these trying times. Yes, things are bad these days, but in light of Stephen's predicament, perhaps I should refrain from whining? It's bad, but it's not "stoning you for your faith" bad. Yes, people are getting on my nerves, but at least they are not trying to kill me. What do you think? Does Stephen's story offer you some perspective?

Salvation in the Way of Jesus

After the pyrotechnics, theatrics, drama, signs, wonders, the story (Act 2) slows down and we are given a portrait of the church. Luke tells us: "They devoted themselves (they gave constant attention) to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (2.42)." Luke sums up the first two chapters of Acts with

these words: "And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved (2.47)" To be saved is to be rescued from the destructive narratives of this present age into a people that embody the narrative of the coming age of God's reign. Living God's future now is the essence of salvation. How does this definition of salvation challenge/broaden other notions of salvation you may have heard?

Easter isn't Good News for Everyone

If our power or status or position or opinions are threatened by Jesus' gospel, then Jesus' transforming love may be an unwelcome intrusion into a perfectly comfortable life. Has Jesus ever challenged your opinions? Does he have access to your heart and mind so as to change your assumptions if necessary?

Stephen

The growth of the church meant new leaders needed to be raised up and equipped. One of those bright young leaders was a man by the name of Stephen. Luke tells us that Stephen was "full of faith and the Holy Spirit" (6.5). Are we making a place at the table for young leaders?

Fight or Flight

We humans are hard wired to respond in one of two ways when we are threatened: fight or flight. One of the hardest things about learning the way of Jesus is that Jesus' way of responding to hostility or persecution or the painful other is neither fight nor flight. Jesus' response to the hostile other is an entirely different way requiring an entirely different level of courage, poise, and power. Stephen's death reveals what this looks like in the extreme. Can you give a less extreme example?