

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.

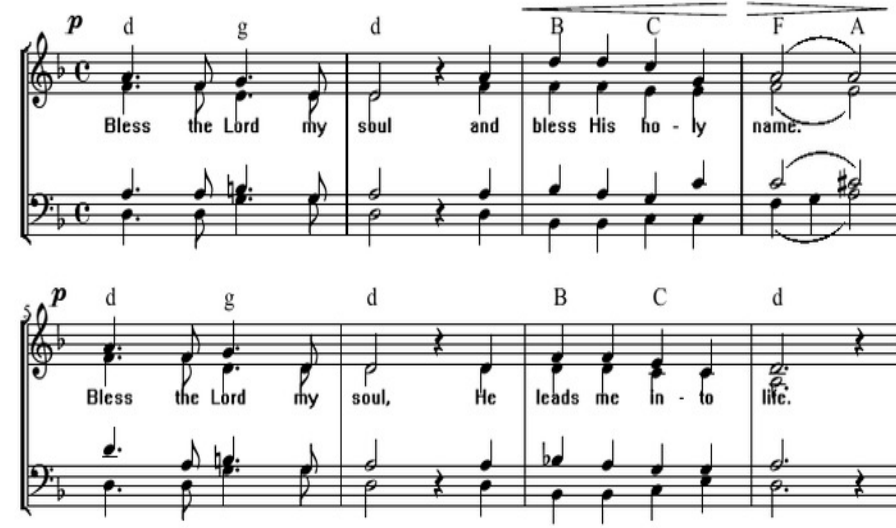
We go into the world offering Jesus' invitation to gather at His Table.

## A Breath Prayer for the Easter Season:

*"I put my trust in Your unfailing love."*

### Bless the Lord my soul

m.: J.Berthier, Taizé



### CHURCH STAFF

Rob Kazee, Pastor

[rpkazee@gmail.com](mailto:rpkazee@gmail.com) ~ 202-997-1222

Jeff Wolfe, Pastor of Christian Formation

[jeffwolfe125@gmail.com](mailto:jeffwolfe125@gmail.com) ~ 717-261-6173

Becky Wolfe, Pastor of Children's Ministry

[rwolfenaz@gmail.com](mailto:rwolfenaz@gmail.com) ~ 717-514-6275

Barb Long, Director of Care and Community

[barbaralong2016@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaralong2016@yahoo.com) ~ 717-736-6110

Bekah Kratzsch, Office Administrator

[office@tablelifechurch.org](mailto:office@tablelifechurch.org) ~ 717-592-0299

617 16th St. New Cumberland, PA 17070

717-744-6444

web: [www.tablelifechurch.org](http://www.tablelifechurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/tablelifechurch](http://www.facebook.com/tablelifechurch)

CHURCH OF  
 THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE  
CHURCH



Order of Worship  
17 May 2020  
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

## We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music  
Welcome  
Call to Worship  
Worship Reading from Psalm 66

## We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer  
Sermon Series: The Spirit of Easter  
Sermon: "Easter Metamorphosis"  
Scripture Reading: Acts 17.22-34

## 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

---

### Acts 17.22-34

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim

to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring. 'Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'" When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

### Question for Everyone

(1) I hold onto my opinions stubbornly. Even when the facts change and I am proven wrong, I still won't change my mind. (10) I hold onto my opinions lightly and constantly hold them up to the light of verifiable data. Where are you on this opinion range?

### Saul of Tarsus: a Zealous Man

Saul not only watched but helped the blood thirsty crowd as they proceeded to stone Stephen to death. The mob laid their coats at the feet of Saul for safe keeping in order to, presumably, have full mobility when it came to hurling stones at Stephen's head. There, stood the zealous, young, Torah student watching Stephen die a gruesome death. It was the right thing, the righteous

thing as far as Saul was concerned. Jerusalem needed cleansed of Stephen's poisonous message about Jesus and the resurrection. Think about the word "zeal." Is zeal good or bad? Would you consider yourself a zealous person? For what are you zealous?

### Saul of Tarsus: a Religious Fundamentalist

Saul was, what we might call today, a religious fundamentalist extremist, not unlike a terrorist. He was sort of the Osama bin Laden of Ancient Near Eastern Judaism bent on jihad, a holy war against the people of the Way, as Christians were called back then. Think about Paul's former life. Is there a good kind of religious fundamentalism? If Saul can become Paul, what are the implications for loved ones in your life who are not yet Christian?

### Saul Meets Jesus

Jesus is all-encompassing and all-consuming for those who follow him. Jesus sets the parameters for life. Jesus offers us his own set of best practices when it comes to being human. If your confession is: "Jesus is Lord," (the common confession for all Christians) then Jesus' best practices become your practices. While we may not be called to the kind of vocation to which Paul was called, all Christians are called to the same depth of love and passionate devotion. Jesus evokes that from his followers. Paul said "I am crucified with Christ." Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." This is just Christianity 101. Talk about the ebb and flow of your devotion to Christ.

### Metamorphosis

Paul saw the glory of Yahweh, the God of Israel, "in the face of Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 4.6). Only Easter can explain a man like the Apostle Paul, a man who remained absolutely loyal to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and completely transformed in his understanding of what it meant to be faithful to this same God. Have you ever had your mind changed? Have you ever been deeply committed to an opinion only to learn you were wrong? Tell the story.