

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.

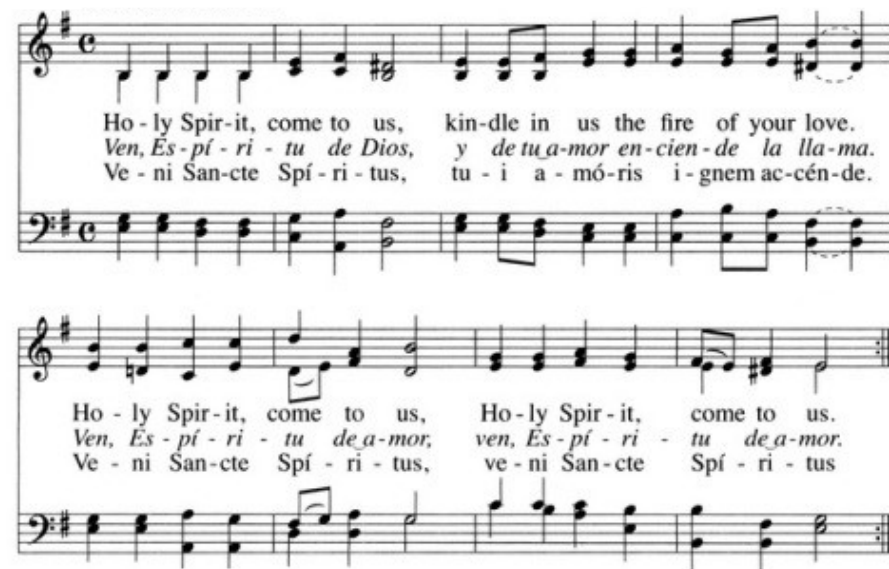
We help the vulnerable among us.

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

A Breath Prayer for the coming week:

"Lord Jesus Christ, fill me with Your love."

Holy Spirit, Come to Us



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CHURCH OF
 THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE
CHURCH



Order of Worship

14 June 2020

The Season after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music

Welcome

Call to Worship

Worship Reading from Psalm 100

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Series: Paul's Letter to the Romans

Sermon: "Suffering to Hope"

Scripture Reading: Romans 5.1-8

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

Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our

sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Question for Everyone

1) I find no good in suffering and I will avoid it at all cost, or 10) I learn from all my sufferings and embrace them because I know I will grow from it. Where are you on this range?

Romans

The letter of Romans changed the lives of many great Christian thinkers. Luther's recognition of "Justification by Faith" sparked the Protestant Reformation. It was listening to Luther's commentary on Romans that led to Wesley's "strangely warmed" heart in 1738 and propelled the Methodist revival. Paul can be a challenging read, and many people struggle with understanding Paul's complex and sometimes circular logic. No doubt, however, this apostle's voice has shaped Christian thinking and ethics since the beginning. What has been your challenges in reading Paul's letters? How has his writing influenced you and spoken into your experience as a Christian?

Justifying Peace

Pax Romana, the idea that the Roman Empire provided peace and flourishing was the rhetoric of Paul's day. Paul subtly challenges this idea. For Paul, peace and justice have been established through Christ's death, which contrasted with Roman peace that is achieved through the death of its enemies. In chapter 1-4, Paul states that, the reign of evil in the world is the enemy of all humanity, and that only through God's act of self-giving love is peace experienced. This, "right-making" work is

complete by a Lord who makes peace through love that disregards death as the final word. How might God's reconciling action in Christ become the ground and model for the reconciliation of human enemies?

What does not kill you makes you stronger?

Nobody likes to suffer it is opposed to human flourishing. No belief system worth its salt, however, can ignore that suffering is part of the human experience. Yet, it would be erroneous to see Paul's words as a pathway to being more virtuous. Lessons can be learned from suffering; however, it is not necessary. Enduring suffering for Paul does not prove love, rather suffering is a consequence of being loved by God and by responding to His love by embracing His way. Paul's words develop a sequence that enables us to be assured of the sanctifying work of God in our lives. How has your faith in God's love for you caused suffering? How did your endurance proven by your steadfastness confirm God's saving work in your life?

Love is "Christ died for us"

Death is to be avoided, but ultimately it cannot. Early in Romans, Paul stated as much when he said, "the wage of sin is death". To give one's life is thus an ultimate sacrifice on behalf of others. Causes, or persons, that one dies for must be worthy of that sacrifice. The interesting turn here is that unlike the emperor who sends warriors to die for his causes, God in Christ sent himself to die for humanity. Furthermore, this sacrifice was made while all humanity, Jews, and Gentiles, lived in debauchery and rebellion to God. When you think about the phrase, "Christ died for the unworthy" what comes to mind? What might your most appropriate response be to Christ's "timely" death?

"O Love that will not let me go, I rest my
weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life
I owe, That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be."
—George Matheson, 1886