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, Son of God, heal me by your love."

Holy Spirit, Come to Us



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Order of Worship 05 July 2020 The Season after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading from Psalm 145

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Sermon Series: Paul's Letter to the Romans
Sermon: "Christians Need Jesus Too"
Scripture Readings: Romans 7.15-25a;
Matthew 11.28-30

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 7.15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Matthew 11.28-30

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Question for Everyone

(1) I have extreme self-discipline in that I am always in complete control of my behavior, even my responses to painful others. (10) I'm out of control. I never do what I want to do. Where are you on this range?

Religious People Need Jesus Too

In our text for today, Paul is trying to convince religious people that they need Jesus. The truth is that many Christians could benefit from meeting Jesus by reading his teachings, thinking deeply about the meaning of His crucifixion, and learning his way of sacrificial love in this world. Have you ever met a religious person who needs Jesus? What does that look like?

Be Gentle with Yourself and Others

In his sermon, Rob mentioned one of his daily practices: "I will be gentle with myself and others as I resist the Accuser's voice." Are you harder on others than you are

on yourself? Vice versa? Pastor Rob mentioned a former saint who lived by the axiom: "Be hard on yourself and easy on others." Do you think this is wise? Why? Why not?

Sin in the Human Heart and In Human Systems

Sin isn't as simple as doing a bad thing. Sin is a force, a powerful sinister presence in the human condition that will as easily take hold of the human heart as it will a governmental system. Jesus came to clear up the mess of sin, both in the human heart and in human systems. Response?

A Word from James Cone

"Christian theology is language about the liberating character of God's presence in Jesus Christ as he calls his people into being for freedom in the world What has the gospel to do with the oppressed of the land and their struggle for liberation? Any theologian who fails to place that question at the center of his or her work has ignored the essence of the gospel" (God of the Oppressed). How might substituting the word "salvation" with the word "liberation" help us understand the nature of salvation?

Sin

If sin is merely an occasional hobby for you, then you can't possibly know how much trouble you're in. And to be clear, I'm not threatening you with God; I'm naming the corrosive and calamitous effects of sin on your ability to be human. Can you tell a story about the corrosive and calamitous effects of sin?

Self Awareness

It doesn't take an emotional genius to know that the attributes you most dislike in painful others may well be lurking in your own heart. Perhaps the reason you are outraged or frustrated or uneasy by certain attitudes and behaviors found in other folk is because they serve as a self-awareness mirror revealing brokenness that you have hidden from yourself? What do you think?