

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:

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

### Holy Spirit, Come to Us

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, kin - dle in us the fire of your love.  
Ven, Es - pí - ri - tu de Dios, y de tu a - mor en - cien - de la lla - ma.  
Ve - ni San - cte Spí - ri - tus, tu - i a - mó - ris i - gnem ac - cén - de.

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.  
Ven, Es - pí - ri - tu de a - mor, ven, Es - pí - ri - tu de a - mor.  
Ve - ni San - cte Spí - ri - tus, ve - ni San - cte Spí - ri - tus

Taizè: Berthier

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CHURCH OF  
 THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE  
CHURCH



Order of Worship  
16 August 2020  
The Season after Pentecost

## We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music  
Welcome  
Call to Worship  
Worship Reading from Psalm 67

## We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer  
Sermon Series: Paul's Letter to the Romans  
Sermon: "Costly Beauty"  
Scripture Readings: Psalm 133; Romans 12.1-8

## We Come to the Table

Prayers of the People  
Song of Preparation  
The Peace  
Prayer of Confession and Consecration  
We Eat and Drink Together  
The Lord's Prayer  
We Celebrate the Eucharist in Song  
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

### Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
life forevermore.

### Romans 12.1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

### Question for Everyone

(1) I will do just about anything to promote unity in my family and faith community including keeping my opinions to myself. (10) One's opinions must never be sacrificed or compromised in the name of unity. Where would you place yourself on this range?

### How Pleasant it Would Be!

Unity among kindred and community *would* be pleasant wouldn't it? If we could live in the shalom of a unified vision of the common good, it would be precious like costly anointing oil. If we could enjoy oneness and a willingness

to sacrifice for the well being of others, that would be refreshing. If we could set a table of mutual respect and affection that would be a banquet feast of delight. As we begin this discussion about Christian unity, let's begin by naming barriers to unity in Christ.

### Unity in Essentials

John Wesley quoting St. Augustine said: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." What does your list of "essentials" include? What convictions are so essential that you would have to break communion to maintain integrity? What things are important but not deal breakers?

### Paul's Advice

But here's the thing and this is really important: Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Thinking differently, embracing a completely different mind-set from your host culture is the real work of Christian formation. What you must do is fix your attention on God? You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what God wants from you and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you developing a well-formed maturity in you. Do you think critically about the assumptions of your host culture? How do you think differently than the dominant world view of your host culture?

### A New Mind-Set

Just go ahead and be what you were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing yourself with each other, or trying to be something you aren't. Change the way you think about pecking orders and hierarchy. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought. Where did Paul get this radical idea of a community in which no one was posturing in a hierarchical pecking order? From Jesus of course. Jesus said to his followers: Pagan folk lord power over one another but this is not my way. "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all" (Mark 10.43-44). Let's discuss becoming a community free from a pecking order. Is this possible? What does this look like? What Christian formation practices do you embrace so as to allow the Spirit of Christ to give you a new mind-set?