

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:

"I put my trust in Your unfailing Love."

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
23 August 2020
The Season after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading from Psalm 138

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Sermon Series: Paul's Letter to the Romans
Sermon: "Overcoming Evil"
Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:21-23; Romans 12:9-21

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

Matthew 16:21-23

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took

him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

Question for Everyone

10) The world has been so corrupted, I see no hope beyond Christ's return for anything good or 1) The world and its inhabitants are mostly good and I still see its beauty every day. What number would you put yourself on right now?

"Get Back Satan!"

In the gospel lesson we see a different side of Jesus. In this scene he rebuts Peter's rebuke by invoking the name of the enemy, Satan. Jesus clarifies that Peter's words are a stumbling block to Him. This snapshot of Jesus and Peter allows us to see the tension that existed for Jesus to choose a path other than the cross. Peter's vision is too low and is using an earthly paradigm to achieve a heavenly objective. What are the implications of being a stumbling block for Jesus? In what ways does the Church employ earth-mindedness to achieve heavenly objectives?

Love, True Agape

Eugene Peterson translated the first half of verse 9 this way, "Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it." Although most English translations treat this phrase like it is an imperative command, Achtemeier and others suggest that it be translated, "Love is not hypocritical." The Greek term agape is translated love. Agape means to live life in self-giving, others-attending, ways that act on the other's behalf. Paul starts his list of Christian ethics by naming true agape as the platform from which all Christian thought and behavior is rooted. Paul begins by reminding us that agape must be the root of all Christian behavior. How should agape affect the way we engage in conversations where others may differ from us? When is it hardest for you to demonstrate agape?

Ethical Exhortations

Biblical scholars describe this section of Paul's letter as ethical exhortations. This is where he suggests how Christians best live their lives expressing the way of Jesus. Paul Achtemeier writes, "Paul is telling his readers how they are to live their lives in a way appropriate to the way God has dealt with His rebellious creation." This is not a list used to gain merit points with God, but rather the way believers respond appropriately to a God who has delivered us from the bondage of sin. When you look over this list, how might the admonition to "respond" to God's grace be helpful in living the way of Jesus? How might it be a challenge?

Good Conquers

The real challenge in Paul's words is that Christians must not withdraw from worldly society. Christians are called to live in society with different values and goals. Despite the good that still exists in the world, many will have a hard time determining the difference between good and evil. Christians are called to point out the good. In a very commanding voice, Paul writes that Christians overcome evil with good. Christians must support those elements of society that are agreeable to the power of grace. It is when we conform to evil powers and cave to structures and say, "that's just the way it has to be" that Christians become obstacles to advancing the Kingdom of God. During these difficult times, what good have you been seeing? How can each of us do better at overcoming evil by pointing out the good?