

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.

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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A Breath Prayer for the coming week:

"I put my trust in Your unfailing Love."

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE CHURCH



Order of Worship
30 August 2020
The Season after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading from Psalm 105

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Sermon Series: Paul's Letter to the Romans
Sermon: "Subversive Submission"
Scripture Reading: Romans 12:13-13.7

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

Romans 12.13—13.7

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.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Question for Everyone

(1) I tend to trust government officials and always comply with governmental regulations and policies. (10) I never trust the government (donkeys and elephants) and tend to resist governmental regulations and policies. Where are you on this range?

Jury Duty

While I didn't want to serve on the jury, my response to the trial afterwards was gratitude. I was grateful that a broken, addicted man would hopefully be kept off the road and that perhaps the guilty verdict would lead to his liberation from alcohol. I had submitted to the government's authority and I sensed God, the actual and final Judge of humankind, was at work in the midst of it all. Have you ever had to serve on a jury? What was your experience like? Do you think justice was served?

Paul on the Witness Stand

Every time I read Romans 13.1-7, I want to put Paul on the witness stand and ask him some hard questions: "Rulers are

not a terror to good conduct, but to bad?" Really? So Paul, how many times were you thrown in jail by the government for bearing witness to Jesus? And Paul, remind me again of how exactly Jesus died? And, what did Satan offer Jesus to keep him from going to the cross? Wasn't it all kingdoms of the world? All the governmental structures? And then Paul there's Emperor Nero, the Ruler of the Roman Empire when you wrote Romans. Paul need I remind you that Nero burned Rome and blamed the Christians? "Rulers are not a terror to good conduct? Rulers are not a threat to the little and lowly?" How are we to solve the tension of reading Romans 13.1-7 in context?

The Cruciform Way

Paul calls Christians to join the non-conforming way of Jesus in the world. In other words, Paul calls Christians to the cruciform life summed up most explicitly and succinctly in 12.21: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Isn't this precisely what Jesus did on the cross, not fighting coercion through coercive means? Not fighting fire with fire? Not overcoming violent bullies by becoming an even bigger bully? But instead He overcame evil by absorbing our violence and offering himself in love. This is what Paul means by the way of Christian nonconformity. How might a cruciform hermeneutic help us interpret chapter 13.1-7?

The Clear Meaning

In Paul's teaching here, there is a clear call to Christians to not take the law into their own hands. Because of the cruciform way of Jesus, Christians can't be violent vigilantes or members of militias. Even under extreme governmental duress, Christians may not participate in violent uprisings. We overcome evil with good. Christians must trust in the fact that, at least for the time being, God has in God's sovereign patience allowed heinous humans to assume earthly power. They will be brought down, usually under the weight of their sin, like Nero and Hitler and all the other corrupt leaders who have roamed the earth. Response?

Subversive Submission

If you are a Christian, you are called to subversive submission. Christians are members of a conspiratorial community of misfits who are undermining the status quo by bowing only to the Lordship of Jesus while, at the same time, loving absolutely everyone both donkey-tribe people and elephant-tribe people. We subvert the status quo through cruciform love of Christ. Response?