

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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 THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE  
CHURCH



Order of Worship  
06 September 2020  
The Season after Pentecost

## **We Gather to Worship God**

Prelude Music  
Welcome  
Call to Worship  
Worship Reading from Psalm 149.1-5

## **We Listen to the Scriptures**

Pastoral Prayer  
Sermon Series: Paul's Letter to the Romans  
Sermon: "Hope"  
Scripture Reading: Romans 15:13-19

## **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 15.13-19**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. Nevertheless on some points I have written to you rather boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to boast of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the good news of Christ.

### **Question for Everyone**

(1) I am often discouraged and easily given over to despair. (10) I am always encouraged and live in constant hope. Where are you on this range?

### **Hope**

Up until recently, I had never been especially fond of the word "hope." The word "hope" always seemed like a sort of opiate that people of faith use to survive when things are really bad. I have even sensed, at times, that hope is used to encourage a passive quietism when prophetic zeal would be more appropriate. How do you respond to the word "hope?" How do you know when to choose between remaining still or engaging prophetically?

### **You Are Not a Pawn**

We aren't pawns in a cosmic battle. We aren't passive observers of a world on fire. We are co-collaborators, co-conspirators with none other than Jesus the Christ. We are swept up into the dance of the Holy Trinity so as to be a part of God's cosmic transformation of all things

by God's grace and our cooperation with divine grace. How do you collaborate and conspire with Jesus to bring His healing?

### **Hope as Eschatology**

Hope is an eschatological word; meaning, hope is about trusting in God's future to the degree that we lean into God's future now. That is to say, hope has a future orientation but a present daily response. Hope is a disciplined posture, a way of navigating in this world. By this definition do you live by hope?

### **Hope is Not a Good Luck Charm**

What one must know about Christian hope is that it is not an excuse for passivity. Neither is it the assurance that all will transpire free of hardship or suffering or that all will go according to plan. As a matter of fact, living by hope means doing the right thing when things are not going according to plan. Authentic hope is impervious to contemporary circumstances. Response?

### **Paul's Boasting**

N.T. Wright says, "before Paul began his missionary journeys, neither Asia Minor nor Greece had heard of Jesus of Nazareth; by the time he was writing this letter, there were little communities all over that part of Caesar's empire (and it was a very significant part of Caesar's empire) in which Jesus was being celebrated as the risen Messiah, the world's true Lord. That is in itself, an astonishing achievement, and Paul must have known it." I'm given to neither confidence nor boasting. But there is a kind of boasting that Christians are allowed, boasting in what God has accomplished through them. In the last few years what has God accomplished through us?

### **Prophetic Imagination: They Teach us to See**

John Woolman (1720-1772)  
William Wilberforce (1759-1833)  
Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)  
Frederick Douglass (1818-1895)  
Catherine Booth (1829-1890)  
Karl Barth (1886-1968)  
Simone Weil (1909-1943)  
James Cone (1938-2018)

Which of these persons peak your interest? Why?