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.

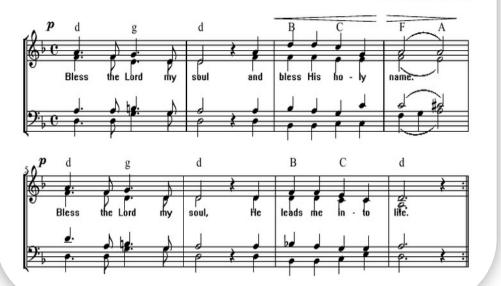
We go into the world offering Jesus' invitation to gather at His Table.

A Breath Prayer for the coming week:

"I put my trust in Your unfailing Love."

Bless the Lord my soul

m.: J.Berthier, Taizé



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Order of Worship 18 October 2020 The Season after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading from the Te Deum Laudamus

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Series: Prophetic Imagination: They Teach Us To See

Sermon: "Karl Barth"

Scripture Reading: Hosea 11.1-9

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

Hosea 11.1-9

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human

kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all. How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

Question for Everyone

(1) If you repent and believe, you will be forgiven. (10)You are forgiven; therefore, repent and believe. Where are you on this range?

Old Pictures

In his sermon, Pastor Rob told the story about a mother gazing through old photos of her wayward, incarcerated son. Have you ever had a loved one ever cause you significant pain by their sinful actions? How did you respond?

The Covenantal Formula

God said to Abraham's children: "I will be your God and you will be my people." While the covenantal formula sounds like something found in a legal document, the truth is that God's covenant bound Israel to her God like a husband to his wife, like a parent to her child. "Within the covenant context, God's relationship to Israel was like that of Husband and Father, in short, a relationship of the deepest (and most demanding) devotion" (Elizabeth Achtemeier). A wife could only have one husband. A child could have only one set of parents. Israel could have only one God. How does the husband/wife or parent/ child metaphor help you understand God's relationship to God's people?

Idolatrous Syncretism

Why did Israel struggle so much with idolatry? Why was Israel always giving herself over to other gods and

goddesses? When are Christians tempted to idolatry? What does Christian idolatry look like today?

Our God Doesn't Share

Why do you suppose that the God of Israel is so selfish? Why does God refuse to share God's people with other god's?

You Become like the Gods You Worship

The worship of baals (foreign gods) had a devastating result on the collective consciousness and culture of the people. This resulted in a reckless disregard for the powerless: the widow, the orphan, the immigrant, a reckless disregard for the gift of sexuality, and a reckless disregard for theological integrity. You become like the gods you worship. Response?

Karl Barth

Simply put, Barth rediscovered the priority of God in theology and among God's people. Barth put God back in the doing of theology. He did this by placing Jesus at the center of all things. Karl Barth said: "Jesus Christ is the living Word of God spoken to us humans I have discovered that by concentrating on this point, I can say everything far more clearly, unambiguously and simply." Karl Barth offered the church an unambiguous focus on Christ and Him crucified. What does it mean that "Jesus Christ is the living Word of God spoken to humans?"

Faith

"Faith is awe in the presence of the divine incognito; it is the love of God that is aware of the qualitative difference between God and man and God and the world "The objective validity and efficacy of salvation in Christ by no means eliminates the necessity of actively receiving it in faith. . . . Faith is necessary as the only apt response to the objective reality and efficacy of salvation. It is the response of gratitude, joy, trust, love, and obedience." What do you think? Is Barth onto something?

Barmen Declaration

"Jesus Christ ... is the one Word of God. ... We reject the false doctrine, as though the Church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and beside this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation."

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