

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

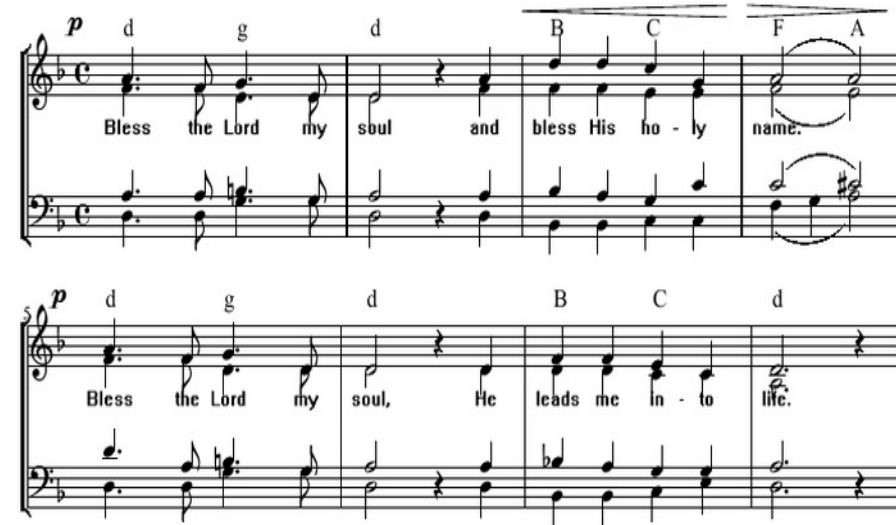
We follow Jesus into the world as His healing presence.  
We help the vulnerable among us.  
We go into the world offering Jesus' invitation to gather at His Table.

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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CHURCH OF  
 THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE  
CHURCH



Order of Worship  
25 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: "Simone Weil"

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 11.1-9; Luke 6.20-21, 24-25

## 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

### Isaiah 11.1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

### Luke 6.20-21, 24-25

Then (Jesus) looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

"But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now,

for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

### Question for Everyone

(1) The gap between my faith and practice is immense.

(10) The gap between my faith and practice is microscopic.

Where would you place yourself on this range?

### Prophetic Imagination: They Teach us To See

It is hard to imagine the fulfillment of Isaiah's vision. The prophet sees a spirit-intoxicated king who will lead with wisdom and reverence toward the healing of the world. This leader will not be swayed by the manipulation of powerful people but, with divine righteousness, will judge the poor, the meek, the vulnerable with justice and equity. Powerful people, history teaches us, have a penchant for using vulnerable populations as a scapegoat for society's woes. The authoritarians of our world have one thing in common: they point their fingers at vulnerable people and blame them for all that is wrong with society. How does a Christian maintain clarity when it comes to discerning a righteous response on behalf of the vulnerable?

### Return to Me

The Hebrew prophets see, with clarity, the depth of Israel's sin. But they also see, through prophetic imagination, the possibility of repentance, the hope of return. It takes no

imagination to see fault and failure. It took quite a bit of imagination to see Israel returning to God and putting away the hideous idols while renewing her commitment to care for the meek and vulnerable. Every time the prophets encouraged the people to repent, they named hope. Do you practice the spiritual discipline of prophetic imagination?

### In Service of the Now

The prophets' visions of the future were always in service of the now. When the prophets painted their portraits of the immense dimension of God's saving work in the world, it was to engender hope in the hearts of God's people.

However, these visions were also offered so that God's people knew what it meant to participate in God's governance in their present context. Glimpses of God's future glory are given so that we might lean into God's future now. If we are to be a part of the future fullness of Jesus' New Creation government, then we need to get on board with his agenda of providing safe sanctuary for the vulnerable. What might this look like?

### Close to Home

Can you think of anyone in your family, workplace or school that gets relegated to the margins, bullied by others, or gossiped about by the popular majority? Can you think of persons who's quirky behavior, ethnicity, gender identity or intellectual disability places them in a position of vulnerability? What is your plan to defend that person or even live in solidarity with that person?

### The Smothering Hug of Accommodation

Robert Coles says "Weil spent the last five years of her life thinking about Jesus, writing about him, praying to him, fitting him into her social and economic and political scheme of things. She was a nun of sorts, following her vocation alone. She was an ambitious, dedicated follower, anxious to meet him—maybe become one of his saints. Because of her faith she thought it was unconscionable, that some live extravagant lives while others clutch at scraps of food or grab at garbage, or starve to death. Above all, she feared the smothering hug of accommodation" (Simone Weil: Modern Pilgrim). How do you resist the smothering hug of accommodation?

### Simone Weil

Simone Weil was an unlikely saint. She was a French philosopher, a melancholy revolutionary, a Christian mystic, and a quiet prophet. She didn't just talk the talk, she walked the walk even as the walk led her into uncomfortable places. What do you find compelling, inspiring or convicting about Simone Weil's life?