

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

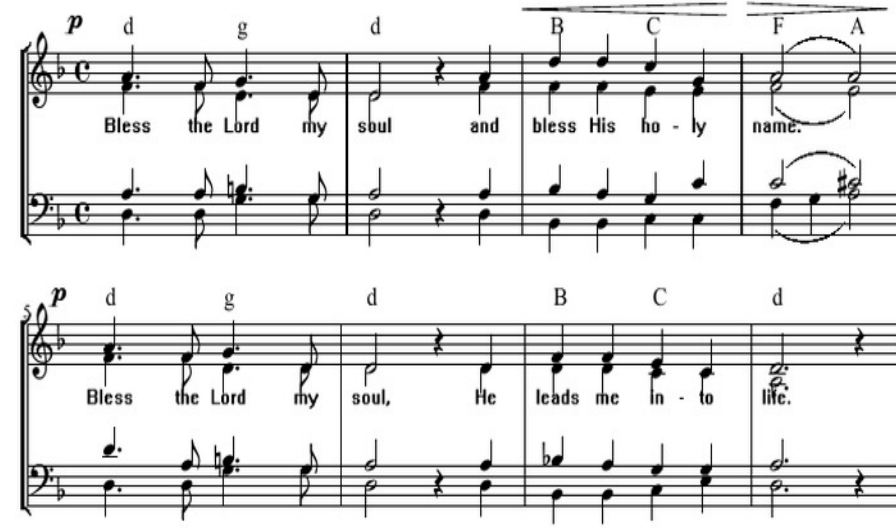
We follow Jesus into the world as His healing presence.  
We help the vulnerable among us.  
We go into the world offering Jesus' invitation to gather at His Table.

A Breath Prayer for the coming week:

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, fill me with Your love."

### Bless the Lord my soul

m.: J. Berthier, Taizé



### CHURCH STAFF

Jeff Wolfe, Pastor of Christian Formation  
jeffwolfe125@gmail.com  
717-261-6173

Becky Wolfe, Pastor of Children's Ministry  
rwolfenaz@gmail.com  
717-514-6275

Barb Long, Director of Care and Community  
barbaralong2016@yahoo.com  
717-736-6110

Bekah Kratzsch, Office Administrator  
office@tablelifechurch.org  
717-592-0299

617 16th St. New Cumberland, PA 17070  
717-744-6444  
web: [www.tablelifechurch.org](http://www.tablelifechurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/tablelifechurch](https://www.facebook.com/tablelifechurch)

CHURCH OF  
 THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE  
CHURCH



Order of Worship  
28 February 2021  
The Second Sunday in Lent

## We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music  
Welcome  
Call to Worship from Psalm 22

## We Listen to the Scriptures

Prayers of the People  
Scripture Reading: Mark 2.27-38  
Sermon: "The Principle of the Seed"

## We Come to the Table

The Peace  
Prayer of Confession and Consecration  
We Eat and Drink Together  
The Lord's Prayer  
Prayer of Thanksgiving  
We Celebrate the Eucharist in Song

## We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life  
Gossiping the Good Stuff  
Doxology  
Blessing and Sending

---

## The Principle of the Seed

Mark 4:2-20 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup>He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: <sup>3</sup>"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup>As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they

withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

<sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

## The Definition Of "Parable"

<sup>2</sup>He taught them many things by parables...

### THE WORD "PARABLE" ...

- Is a transliteration of the Greek "**parabole**" (para-bow-LAY), which means "to place beside, to cast alongside"
- As defined by Vine's Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words, it "signifies a placing of one thing beside another with a view to comparison"
- Warren Wiersbe's description of a parable in his book "Windows on the Parables": "**a story that places one thing beside another for the purpose of teaching. It puts the known next to the unknown so that we may learn.**"
- Can usually be identified by the use of the word "like"

### AS USED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, A PARABLE...

Is usually a story or narrative drawn from nature or human circumstances from which spiritual lessons can be made by comparison -- A common definition of a parable is "**an earthly story with a heavenly meaning**"

## Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

<sup>10</sup>When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup>He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables <sup>12</sup>so that, "'they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!'"

## THE PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO "CONCEAL" AND THEN "REVEAL"

- The parables were simply seen as stories by the "curious" crowd.
- The parables taught the disciples the deep truths about the kingdom of heaven.

## The Parable of the Seed

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? <sup>14</sup>The farmer sows the word. <sup>15</sup>Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

<sup>16</sup>Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup>But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>18</sup>Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; <sup>19</sup>but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>20</sup>Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

Mark 4:2-20 (NIV)

- A lot of seed must be scattered to produce a crop.
- Not all soils produce, but we cannot reap if we do not sow.
- We must continue sowing, because one day we will reap a harvest.
- The soil that produces will multiply; we will reap more than we sow.
- We will reap in proportion to what we have sown.
- We cannot do anything about last year's harvest, but we can about this year's harvest.
- We must believe in the seed we sow, knowing that some will produce fruit.
- Once we see fruit, all our effort seems worthwhile.