

## Church at Home

Olivet Congregational Church  
for Third Sunday of Easter, Sunday April 26, 2020

### **Opening Prayer:** *God of Love and Mercy,*

*As we gather in your name this day, remind us that we are not alone; that others are with us, praying together, considering your promises together, and looking toward you for hope and healing. Hear now our prayers for one another, for our community of faith, for those who are hurting or grieving in any way. Protect our loved ones, calm us, comfort us, and strengthen each of us as we take this time out of our weekend to meet with you. We are so bold to ask all of this from you, in the name of our Creator, Redeemer, Friend, and Spirit. AMEN.*

Here's a **musical prelude** to listen to recommended by Lisa Isenberg of our congregation. Hold your control button (Ctrl) and click below for "This is the Day the Lord Has Made..." by William Byrd.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-vXQVZXIxA>



The following **lessons** are assigned in the Universal Common Lectionary for today. As you read these verses from scripture be mindful that Christians all over

the world will be reading these same passages and seeking hope with you. Ponder how the words apply to your own life today. I invite you to find a quiet place—near a window or even outside if that works—and read aloud through each passage. Answer the questions for yourself or reflect together with someone. Then use the prayers provided here, or one of your own.

### **Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

**But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.**

What things do you feel you "know with certainty"?

Have you ever heard something that felt like it cut you to your heart? What was that?

Repent means to turn around. Are there any thoughts or actions that you need to turn around and away from today? If so, share those with God in prayer.

Pray: *God, for all the ways I need to be forgiven, I ask for your grace today.*

*Forgive me for the ways that I have sinned against you in my thoughts and my words and deeds. Forgive me for the things that I have done, and for all that I left undone. AMEN.*

Hold your control button (Ctrl) and Click below for the HYMN "This Joyful Eastertide" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tipsbcfuB4>

### **Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19**

**I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!" What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the**

**presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

Can you think of a time when God "loosed your bonds" or set you free from something?

Say a prayer of thanks for what God has done to free you in the past.

Is there something in your life today that you would like to be freed from? Ask God for that...

*Pray: God, grant me freedom today. Loose the bonds that I feel from \_\_\_\_\_ allow me to feel a new hope and a new lightness in this release today. Remind me that you want me to be free and happy in this life so that I might show others freedom and joy as well. AMEN.*

### **1 Peter 1:17-23**

**If you invoke the One who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.**

What in this lesson from 1 Peter stands out for you today?

Underline the words that have the most meaning for you.

The last verse states that you have been born anew. In what ways would you like to start over and feel new?

*Pray: God, make me born anew today. Release me from fear and sadness and worry. Give me eyes to see that you are greater than I think you are. God grant me courage to rise and believe that you are able to heal me more than I thought you could. Grant me strength to walk forward and begin again. AMEN.*

Hold your control button (ctrl) and Click below for the SONG by Alisa Turner, "My Prayer for You" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hj\\_0pviGkks](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hj_0pviGkks)

Hold Down the CTRL key and [CLICK HERE](#) for a **Children's Message** from Vanessa.

### **Luke 24:13-35**

**Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with**

each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So, he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen to the **sermon** by Pastor Rick



PRAY: *God, open my eyes and help me to see you with me. Fill my heart and soul with the fire of your love today.*

You may find your toe tapping, or even a strong desire to singalong! Hold your control key (Ctrl) and Click the link below for the **CLOSING SONG** by Third Day: "Soul On Fire" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7lv9oMjv\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7lv9oMjv_0)

*And now receive the blessing:*

*May the peace of the risen Christ that passes all understanding comfort and guide you in this day and on into the life that is yet to come for you, in Jesus' name. AMEN.*