

Church at Home

Olivet Congregational Church

for Sunday May 10, 2020

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Prayer: *God of Love and Mercy,*

As we gather in the name of Jesus Christ 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. Today we are especially mindful of our mothers—for any unending love, teachings, kindnesses, warmth of heart shown to us by our mothers, we are thankful. For all the women in our lives who have played a mothering, nurturing, caring roles in our lives and families, we are, indeed, grateful. Bless this, their day, with abundant joy and beauty.

Hear, now, our prayers for one another; protect our friends, family, and all those we love. We pray for healing where it is needed, reconciling among ourselves, forgiveness as required of us, and your peace and comfort throughout the whole world standing in need of your touch. Strengthen each of us as we take this time out of our weekend to meet with you, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit that resides with us all. AMEN.

Opening Song: Hold your control button (Ctrl) and Click below for the HYMN

“Day by Day” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INVCcph6cni>

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, alone or together with someone you love, and read through each passage. Reflect on the questions, then use the prayers provided here or, better yet, pray one of your own.

There is no sermon link provided today in this document as we are hoping you'll join us online live, Sunday, about 5 minutes before 10am, on Zoom link provided you in the email. Hope to see you there!

Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

This story is a disturbing image of Stephen and how his devotion to Christ led him into suffering.

How did the faith of Stephen threaten others?

Where is Jesus in this story?

Have you ever wondered where Jesus is in your own story?

PRAYER: *God, thank you for the freedom we have in our lifetime to worship and believe in you. We pray for all the people in the world who face threats and danger for their faith. Comfort those who live in oppression and fear because of their faith. When things threaten, and my world comes crashing in, please show me your presence. AMEN.*

Hold your control button (ctrl) and Click below for "Alleluia from Motet 6", by J.S. Bach <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-vXQVZXIXA>

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

What does it mean for you today to consider that your times are in God's hands?

What does it feel like to have God's face shine upon you?

Hold your control button (ctrl) and Click below for the **SONG**

"Psalm 31, Make Your Face to Shine Upon Your Servant", by Esther Mui

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ch-YMog_OyY

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation- if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy

nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

How does it feel to know that you did not choose God but that God has chosen you?

What does it feel like to hear that God knows you better than anyone?

PRAYER: *Help me to remember in every trying moment that you know me fully and have shown me mercy. AMEN.*

[John 14:1-14](#)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Try to imagine God's house. And you have a place there. What difference in your life does that make?

What does Jesus ask you to believe?

What does Jesus say about asking God for anything?

PRAYER: *God, help me to believe that you are the way for me, the path to freedom, joy, love and life. AMEN.*

Hold your control button (ctrl) and Click below for "Thine Be the Glory",

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTXUsKFecJs&list=RDaPYydmCzffA&index=14>

*And now may the peace of Christ that passes all understanding comfort
and guide you in this day and on into the life that is to come for you.
AMEN.*