

## Church at Home

Olivet Congregational Church

*Easter 6    Sunday May 17, 2020*

*This document is designed for those unable to, or who choose not to, participate in the LIVE worship experience we offer via the internet on Sunday mornings, at 10am. You should have received an invite and instructions as to who to participate with the community of faith LIVE there.*

*For those who need or want the following option, we hope this will assist you in your at-home worship life AND help keep you spiritually fed and nourished by the Word.*

**Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

As your Church seeks ways to gather in the name of Jesus Christ during these days of quarantine, remind us that we are not alone; that others are praying together, considering your promises together, and looking toward you for hope and healing. Hear now our prayers for one another. Protect our friends, family, and all those we love; we pray for the whole world, and especially all who stand in need this day of healing, those who grieve, and those in fear wherever they may be. 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.

Hold down 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. Find a quiet place, alone or together

with someone you love—near a window, or even outside if that works. Read through each passage, reflect on your response to the questions, and use the prayers provided here. Better yet, offer up one of your own.

### Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him--though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

What are some of the 'objects of worship' that are common today?

What do you notice about Paul's approach when introducing these folks to God in Christ? Can we learn anything from it?

What has helped you come to know and understand God?

Does anything amaze you about God's power today? What is it?

Hold down your control key (Ctrl) and Click below for: **"Be Not Afraid"** (Taize Chant)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jL\\_vNr91bw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jL_vNr91bw)

***PRAYER:** God amaze me with your love today. Remind me that you are bigger and more powerful than I imagine on my own. AMEN.*

## Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,  
who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet  
you have brought us out to a spacious place.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,  
those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of  
rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast  
love from me.

Do you ever feel like you need to be reminded that you're going to be okay?

In this Psalm we are encouraged to praise God who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip. How do you feel when you think about a God that  
keeps our feet from slipping, and on the path, so that we can continue to put one  
foot in front of the other?

***PRAYER:** Help me to know deeply that I am going to be okay, that you have  
promised to keep my feet from slipping and help me to continue to put one foot in  
front of the other, moving toward your light and hope. AMEN.*

## 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

It says in this lesson that Christ died to bring you to God. Do you feel like there have been moments in your life when you have been lifted or carried—brought to God?

Can you think of others that have led you into faith?

Can you think of a time when it seemed that you were helped by some power that you could not see?

***PRAYER:** God, remind me that my help comes from you. Remind me that you will always be with me and want to help me through anything and everything that I encounter. AMEN.*

## John 14:15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments

and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

What does it mean for you when you hear Jesus say that you will not be left orphaned?

In this poetic description of our relationship with Christ from the Gospel of John we see how Christ abides in us. How does Christ abide in you today?

In what ways do you need to experience God's abiding presence today?

For what do you need to be forgiven today?

*PRAYER: God, I need you and your grace every day. Help me to know your love more deeply. Lead me to change in the ways that would lead me to abide in your love and forgiveness. AMEN.*

Hold down your control key (Ctrl) and Click below for: **"Down to the River"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BumCkswUUDA>

*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.*