

Olivet Connections

Making the grace of God real for people.

COMING OUT OF THE WILDERNESS

We certainly have no clue when we will get the equivalent of an "All Clear!" re: the coronavirus pandemic. We do know, as Anthony Fauci has put it, "[we] do not set a timeline for the virus; the virus sets the timeline." That being said, we will NOT be gathering face to face/body to body on Easter morning, so stay home and as safe as possible for as long as necessary. This unanticipated dimension of "wilderness" has been extended, and we don't know when we can expect to come out into the open again; out into the celebration of connecting again. When we do, it will be an Easter of its own making, and we will rejoice in this New Life!

This cocooning time has brought, and is still bringing insights and awareness of how much we take for granted; how much we tend to float through our days; and how interconnected and interdependent our lives are on a personal, communal, and global scale. And I have to wonder what our world is going to look like and behave like when this has receded into the background. The most honest thing we can say is "we don't know what the new normal will be".

We started Lent with ashes to remind us that we all are made of the same "stuff", and not one of us gets out of this life without experiencing death. Birth and death are universal equalizers.

We entered the wilderness with Jesus to remind us that the forces of temptation and the power of Spirit were at work in and through him as he began his journey to Jerusalem.

We have witnessed Jesus' challenges to Empire through his encounter with Nicodemus, the Samaritan Woman, the Man Born Blind, the raising of Lazarus from death. Each of these signaled the growing threat he posed to Rome and the Temple authorities, setting the stage for his crucifixion. As Rev. William Barber II says so eloquently, we must remember that "Jesus was controversial, radical, revolutionary. He was not cute, cuddly, content Jesus." He not only overturned the tables and cast out the moneychangers in the temple; he turned the whole social order on its head, and that scared the bejeebers out of emperors and priests alike!

Now we wait for Easter. We have yet to go through betrayal, crucifixion, three days dead in the tomb with Jesus, if we dare go there. We REALLY want to get to empty tomb, women running to tell the disciples the Good News! But we're not there yet. We're cocooning – physically and spiritually. We're still figuring out how WE will be different on the other side of this birth, life, death continuum of Lent and COVID-19.

I am very aware that in our quest to protect ourselves and our beloveds, doing so many of the "right" things, we have mostly forgotten the people Jesus spent his ministry engaged with and fighting for, the people for whom he ultimately gave his life --- the poor, the dispossessed, those on the margins, the ones who were considered non-essential, the OTHERS among us!



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When we emerge from our cocoons will we be more awake and aware of the need to challenge Empire? Will we see with new eyes; take this new start as a call to deeper engagement with the ones who still remain invisible to us much of the time? We will step up our involvement in work on behalf of those without a voice; with scant resources; without a home? I believe the most honest answer we can give is "We don't know what the new normal will be".

BUT we can HOPE! We can hope and try with full energy to see, to engage, to wake up, to be new beings ourselves! We can take this cocooning time to really examine the places of indifference and inaction in our lives, and decide to turn in a new direction. We can HOPE that in renewed community, we will put on new clothes of compassion, justice, and speaking truth to power when and wherever we can do that! These things can be born anew in our coming out of the wilderness: HOPE. COMPASSION. EMPOWERMENT. JUSTICE. LOVE.

I share with you this poem by Sarah Are as part of our Sanctified Art offerings:

The Wilderness is the Birthplace of Joy

I used to know the wilderness only as pain;
A land without food, a land without water.
But you rained down manna
And even water flows in your desert.

I used to think the wilderness was total isolation ---
But the Israelites had each other,
And you had the stars in the sky.

So then I thought the wilderness must be wasted---
Forty years of circles.
Forty years of wondering.
But then I realized, each step is a step,
And maybe there's growth in that.

So then I concluded that the wilderness must be lonely spaces ---
The woman and her well,
The blind man and his gate,
Martha and her kitchen,
Peter and his fire.
But then you showed up in each of those places,
To each of those faces.

So now I wonder ---
What if the wilderness is the birthplace of creation?
What if the wilderness is where call begins?
What if the wilderness is where joy is birthed?
What if, between the dirt and the sky
And that wide orange horizon,
The wilderness is where we find you?

May we awaken on Easter to a truly new dawn,
new creation, new vision.
May we awaken as EASTER PEOPLE in every sense possible!

Blessings for New Life, New Beginnings!
Pastor Coletta



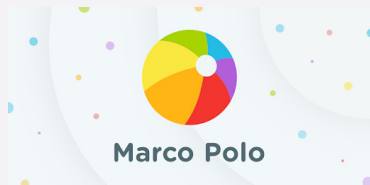
Connect With Us Online

Our Monday Bible study group is continuing at noon through the Zoom app (see information below). Join the meeting from computer or smartphone: Join Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/517178327> ; From your telephone: Dial +1 312-626-6799 ; Enter Meeting ID: 517 178 327.

Bible Study

Worship

We may not be able to shake hands or hug each other every week, but we can worship God and give thanks for another day to virtually gather and give praise. Join us each Sunday at 8:00 AM on our YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCidRcNO37kOlacdgCs1Ry5w?view_as=subscriber) and at 10:00 AM on our Facebook page at facebook.com/OlivetChristianChurch.



We have created an Olivet group on **Marco Polo**. Marco Polo is an app that allows users to send short video messages to one another. It has been a wonderful way for us to be able to see one another's faces and check in. To join us download the Marco Polo app on your smartphone and go to <https://onmarcopolo.com/groups/Aaxkev2UQ19J/olivet>

HOW TO SETUP ZOOM

Step 1. Set Up Zoom



Setting Up on a Mobile Device

- You do not need a Zoom account (but please know that accounts are free). Do not buy a paid account. It is not necessary.
- For a smart phone or tablet, search Zoom in the app store. "Zoom Cloud Meetings" will show up. Click download, it's free.

Setting Up on a Computer

- You do not need a Zoom account (but please know that accounts are free). Do not buy a paid account. It is not necessary.
- Go to <https://zoom.us/download> and download "Zoom Client for Meetings."
- For Mac users, find "Zoom.pkg" in your downloads and double-click it to install the application.

Step 2. Test

- Think about the space you want to meet in. Consider setting up a space that is comfortable and has adequate lighting. You'll want to limit ambient sound, so turn off TVs, etc.

- Open the Zoom icon on your computer or Zoom app on your phone and click "Sign In"
- Once signed in, click "New Meeting" or "Start a Meeting."
- Click "Join with computer audio" or "Call using internet audio."
- Spend some time exploring the settings. You can mute/unmute your audio and turn your video on/off on the bottom left-hand side of the window. You can also find the "Chat" feature.
- When you are done, end the meeting by clicking "End Meeting" (bottom right-hand side of the window).

Step 3. Attend a Meeting!

- Prior to your meeting, you will receive an email with information on how to join the meeting.
- A few minutes before your meeting is set to begin, set up your computer or phone so that you can be seen and heard.
- Note: You can join a meeting at any time.

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Meeting on a Computer or Smartphone

- Click on the Zoom Meeting Link in the email provided.
- You can also “Join a Meeting” by opening the app or going to zoom.us. Click “Join a Meeting” and enter the Meeting ID provided in the email.

Meeting by Phone

- No computer or smartphone? No problem! Call the number listed in the email provided. (Chicago’s number should work for us.)
- An automated voice will prompt you to put in the Meeting ID Number, which should be included in the email. Dial in the Meeting ID Number and press pound.
- Note: These are not toll-free numbers. Long distance charges or standard billing rates will apply.

Troubleshooting

First, it is helpful to use the most updated version of Zoom. If you have the Zoom application on your computer, tablet, or smartphone, update it by clicking this link <https://zoom.us/download>.

What if my video goes out and I can’t see anything?

1. Close Zoom. Make sure all other programs using the camera are closed. Restart Zoom
2. Restart your computer

3. Go to this link and follow the instructions: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/202952568-My-VideoCamera-Isn-t-Working>

What if I can’t hear anything?

1. Make sure your volume is on and turned up.
2. If you see the speaker icon in the top-left corner is turned off, tap it to turn on your speaker.
3. Go to this link and follow the instructions: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/204484835-My-Audio-isNot-Working-on-iOS-or-Android>

What if I get disconnected from the Meeting? Can I rejoin?

- Absolutely! You can join or rejoin the Meeting at any time.

Can I join the Meeting after the start time?

- Yes! You can join a Meeting at any time, and this will not be a disruption.

I don’t have a computer. Can I call in with a cell phone or landline?

- Anyone can call into a Meeting just like a conference call. Call the number specific to that Meeting. An automated voice will ask you to dial in the Meeting ID Number. Then you will be prompted to press pound. These are not toll-free numbers.

I’m seeing a notification that says “internet unstable.” What should I do?

- This means YOUR internet is unstable. If you get this message while your video is on, turning your video off can sometimes help.

Ways To Give

This is a time of great financial difficulty - especially those whose employment has been impacted by shutdowns and layoffs. We recognize this. We also know there will be a great need for the Church’s services now and in the future. If you

can give, please consider supporting the ongoing ministry of Olivet by mailing your offerings to: 1991 S. Olivet Rd., Columbia MO 65201 or online at olivetchristian.org/give-now. Your love and support is appreciated.



We are "thinking outside the box" for Palm Sunday!

Use craft supplies and make your own palm branch or go outside, grab a branch from a tree or bush in your yard.

Take a picture of yourself and your family waving your "palm" and send it to us before April 3.

We will compile a virtual Palm Parade for Palm Sunday!

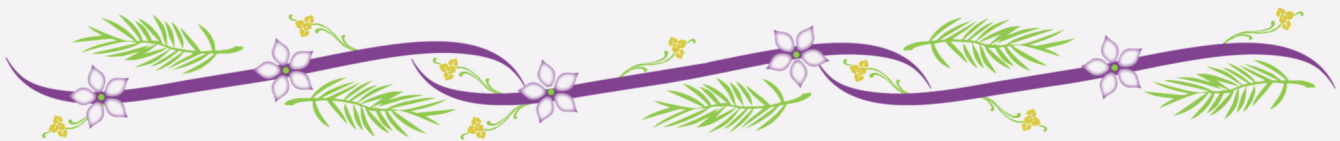


Virtual 24 hour prayer vigil

Holy Saturday April 11
12:00 AM - 11:30 PM

Sign up for a 30 minute time to pray at
Sign-Up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084DA9A82FA7FA7-olivet>



The ultimate recycling event, OCC's Annual Rummage Sale, was another HUGE SUCCESS.

(Proceeds this year are to support our Ministry Fund, to help meet our budget needs in 2020.) Our gross receipts were just over \$6,300 ~ (largest anyone can recall)

A big **"THANK YOU"** to the Recycling Committee:

- Unsold items were taken to various outlets for resale/distribution
- Unsold clothing and shoes went to The Container Project for relief efforts in Nicaragua and Goodwill
- Unsold books went to the Columbia Public Library, Senior Center, and others for future book sales.

Over and over during the day we heard people saying "I love this church rummage sale!" and



"Thank you, for the opportunity to find clothes in my size that I can afford."

THANK YOU to all those who contributed their unwanted 'treasures', and especially to those who contributed their time to cashier, welcome, bag, answer questions, direct traffic, set-up, sort, price, clean-up, box up, and deliver recyclable items to their next destination. The more hands involved the easier the work is. Best turn out in many years by the congregation so the work went fast and fellowship was had by all.

THANK YOU from your Mission Family Leadership Teams, the Board, the Staff, the Outreach Committee, the Sustainability Committee, and the Finance Committee.

Joanne & I have been so thankful to all our Olivet friends for all the visits and prayers while I was in the hospital and Joanne was in rehab.

~ Paul Andrews

Olivet Christian Church
1991 S Olivet Rd
Columbia MO 65201

NONPROFITORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 84
COLUMBIA MO

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Monday - Friday

OFFICE PHONE:

573.442.0336

WEB:

www.olivetchristian.org

FACEBOOK:

[www.Facebook.com/OlivetChristianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/OlivetChristianChurch)

CALENDAR:

<https://www.olivetchristian.org/calendar>

STAFF:

Coletta Eichenberger
Interim Ministry Consultant

Hannah Ryan
Associate Pastor

Adriene Floyd
Music Coordinator/Accompanist

Angela Carlson
Choral Director

Becky Teacutter
Administrative Office Coordinator