

Glad Tidings

PO Box 2316, Arusha, Tanzania
www.acc.or.tz

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Volume 396

Arusha
Community
Church



COVID-19 UPDATE

The disease COVID-19, caused by the novel corona virus, has been confirmed in Arusha. Gathering in groups, including for worship, poses a great risk of spreading this disease in our community and beyond.

Regular worship and Sunday School are temporarily suspended at ACC.

This decision will be regularly reviewed by Council to see when it is the best time to resume congregational worship. Our mission statement states that we seek to bring Christian praise and witness to God through worship, service (to others) and study. We can continue to do these in creative ways as we 'socialize from a distance'.

Please check our website and Facebook page for any updates.

do not fear: I am with
you; do not be anxious,
I am your God. I
will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you
with my victorious
right hand.
ISAIAH 41:10

ACC Bank Details:

Your offerings can always be deposited into our bank account. See details below:

EXIM BANK

TSH. ACCOUNT NUMBER 00 300 23 252
USD ACCOUNT NUMBER 578 067 0116

ACC PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request and would like members of our community to support you in prayer, contact the four key persons – if possible by SMS- and they will inform the others from the prayer chain:



Erwin Kinsey	0754 480 184
Margaret Kenyi	0754 090 078
Susan Simonson	0754 266 559
Stella Karumuna	0754 281 337

**"Fixing our eyes on
Jesus, the pioneer and
perfector of faith"**
- Hebrews 12:2

Letter from the church council

Olney is a small town of around 7,000 people in the county of Buckinghamshire in the South East of England. I have never been there, but I know of the place on account of the Olney Hymns, published in February 1779, the combined work of John Newton and William Cowper. ‘Amazing Grace’, which we all know well, is the most famous of the Olney hymns, although around six of them have survived to be regular parts of modern church services.

But Olney, however, is most famous for an event which happened back as long ago as 1445. On Shrove Tuesday of that year, the shriving bell (a bell to call the faithful to confession before the solemn season of lent) rang out and caught a certain young lady off guard, still cooking pancakes in her kitchen. Legend has it that, not wanting to be late for church, she grabbed her hat and scarf before running through the streets of Olney in her apron, frying pan in hand, tossing the pancake as she went to prevent it getting burned.

Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday) is the gateway to lent. It’s a day when, traditionally in many countries, households clear out their eggs, milk, flour and butter (as well as other rich foods) ahead of the prayer, fasting and giving which will take place over the next forty days. And what better (or tastier) way to get rid of these particular ingredients than to make them into pancakes?

Today, the town of Olney plays host every year to (possibly) the world’s most famous annual pancake race. The rules are simple: ladies run from the market place to the church of St Peter and St Paul, a distance of around 400 metres. They must wear an apron, hat and scarf and carry a frying pan with a pancake in it. The pancake must be tossed at least three times during the race and the winner is the first lady to arrive at the church and receive a kiss from the vergers.

All these fun and games, however, are just a warmup for the very serious Christian season of lent, which is a period of 46 days (40 not counting Sundays) when we, as Christians, have our annual opportunity to experience a spiritual spring. In fact, the word ‘lent’ derives from the Middle English term ‘lenten’, literally meaning the (season of) spring. Like the season, lent is a time of new beginnings, new growth and is a time for us to get fit again to live the life of a Christian. Lent is also a time of sacrifice, but we should carefully consider *why* we are sacrificing things. For example, if we seek to disconnect from social media during lent (not a bad idea when we look at how much of our time it eats up), we should seek to better use this time with our friends, families and especially with God in prayer. If we replace our social media consumption with more time watching football, then what have we really gained?

At the beginning of lent, on February 26th, we celebrated Ash Wednesday in a lovely evening service here at ACC. Our heads were marked with the sign of the cross, in ash, and we heard the words “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. This humbling message reminds us, in the words of Rev Allana C. Sullivan of the Harvard Memorial Church, that:

“What we keep at bay becomes the very thing our faith depends on. By admitting our own finitude we see God’s infinitude, confronting death brings us new life, knowing our limits gives us freedom, and through the mess of dust we come to know the holy.”

Each week in church, as God’s faithful children, we remember and celebrate the most significant event in the history of this earth: the resurrection of Jesus. And on Easter Sunday we, and the wider community, pay special attention to this miracle. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin and restored our relationship with God. His resurrection is a further guarantee that he has defeated death, and that all Christians will one day be resurrected with him. And if that doesn’t get you excited then I don’t know what will.

Happy Easter everyone!

– Michael Murray, Secretary, ACC Church Council



Mission Statement:

Arusha Community Church seeks to bring Christian praise and witness to God through worship, service and study. The congregation provides opportunity for Christian fellowship, service and witness, community outreach, personal growth and family growth. Recognizing the close link between worship and culture, Arusha Community Church has an inter-denominational ministry to the international community in Arusha.



Check out our Facebook page: **"Arusha Community Church"** for updates and news. You can add your words of encouragement in the comment section. Tuko pamoja.

The New ACC Church council pictured above.

From left: Philip Mvungi, Neil Rowe Miller, Rebecca Mosley, Eliel Gideon, Susan Simonson, Erwin Kinsey, Elizabeth Hudgin, Michael Murray, Monica John; Seated: Doreen Marandu, Christopher Kenyi.

ACC WEBSITE:

Not sure of our programs and activities? Want to be involved in some way, but not sure how? Want to receive Glad Tidings by email? Have a general question about Arusha that an old-timer may have the answer to?

Please visit our ACC website www.acc.or.tz for more info

Please welcome **Vivi-Lillian Nasieku Mollel**, ACC's new administrator (pictured on the right).

Vivi, an ACC member, started work on 1 March. She is a true East African as her mama is a Tanzanian Maasai and her father is a Kenyan. She loves music (a member of ACC's choir), cooking and helping others. She is most proud of her daughter, Stephanie, who is in Form 5 at Kilakala in Morogoro.

"This was my prayer point many years ago, to serve God more closely. God answered me with a great BANG with this job. I will not take it for granted and will give my all to this workP!"

-Vivi-Lillian, 15 March, 2020



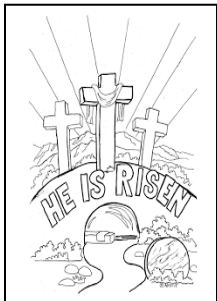
"He is not here; He has risen!" Luke 24:6-7





APRIL SCRIPTURE READINGS

APRIL 5 LITURGY OF THE PALMS (PALM SUNDAY)	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalms 118: 1-2; 19-29 Matthew 21:1-11 Philippians 2:5-11
APRIL 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13: 1-17, 31b - 35
APRIL 10 GOOD FRIDAY	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalms 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1 - 19:42
APRIL 12 RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 28:1-10
APRIL 19 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalms 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31
APRIL 26 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35



“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

- 1 Peter 1:3