Reflection for Monday, September 11, 2023



First, I’d like to thank you, kind and generous people, for your support of me and Randy as we have negotiated a disrupted summer and his recent surgery. Randy is feeling much, much better and has spent a lot of time over the weekend birdwatching in our backyard.

We hope our challenges (and any you are experiencing) are settling and that we can look forward to a happy Homecoming this coming Sunday, September 17th.

I looked up how the tradition of homecoming came to be, and it is a distinctively American thing. It seems to have started with the University of Missouri at the turn of the 20th century: alums were encouraged to return to the campus for a football game.

Hmm, so a nostalgic, secular tradition.

At O.C.C. we have no “alums” because we don’t graduate! We just keep growing in faith. But in various ways, we do venture out into the world and then return home. One way I see us doing that is in service to others. We recently reached out with help to our brothers and sister in Maui, one of our youth (Thank you, Ava!) traveled to Panama to serve there, and there are folks this past week who called their state assembly members to advocate for better housing resources for low income Californians.

Let’s keep this in mind as we celebrate Homecoming next Sunday: how can we open our home to others? How do we come home to God in the deepest sense? As we enjoy a good meal and good company, I’ll set out materials for an Amnesty International letter-writing campaign. And want to offer some support and hospitality to people who are outside a warm and loving home space? Consider buying a book for a prisoner on the Prisoners Literature Project (<https://www.prisonlit.org>) book wishlist page: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/OZTZRXXUXKNI?ref\_=wl\_share

This is a list of books specifically requested by individual prisoners. If you buy a book, let me know! And we can make a list to celebrate solidarity (and literacy) at our Homecoming lunch.

In faith,

Elizabeth