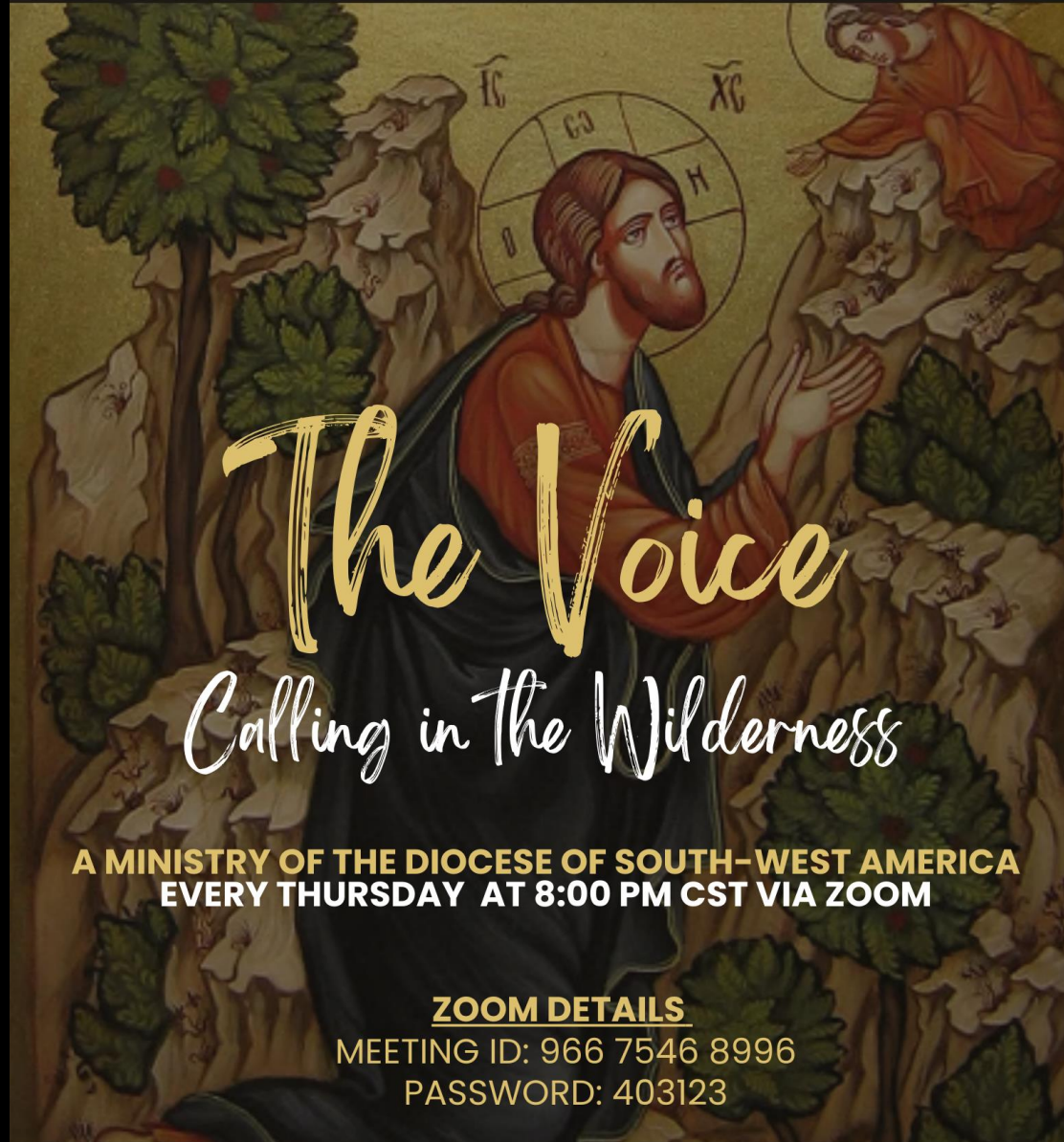


A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepares the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God'

ISAIAH 40:3



The Voice

Calling in the Wilderness

**A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA
EVERY THURSDAY AT 8:00 PM CST VIA ZOOM**

ZOOM DETAILS

MEETING ID: 966 7546 8996

PASSWORD: 403123

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
REV. FR. IMMANUEL (AMAL) PUNNOOSE
EMAIL: APUNNOOSE@SVOTS.EDU



THE VOICE

CALLING IN THE WILDERNESS

Mini-Series: The Early Church Part I

GUEST SPEAKER

FR. IMMANUEL (AMAL) PUNNOOSE

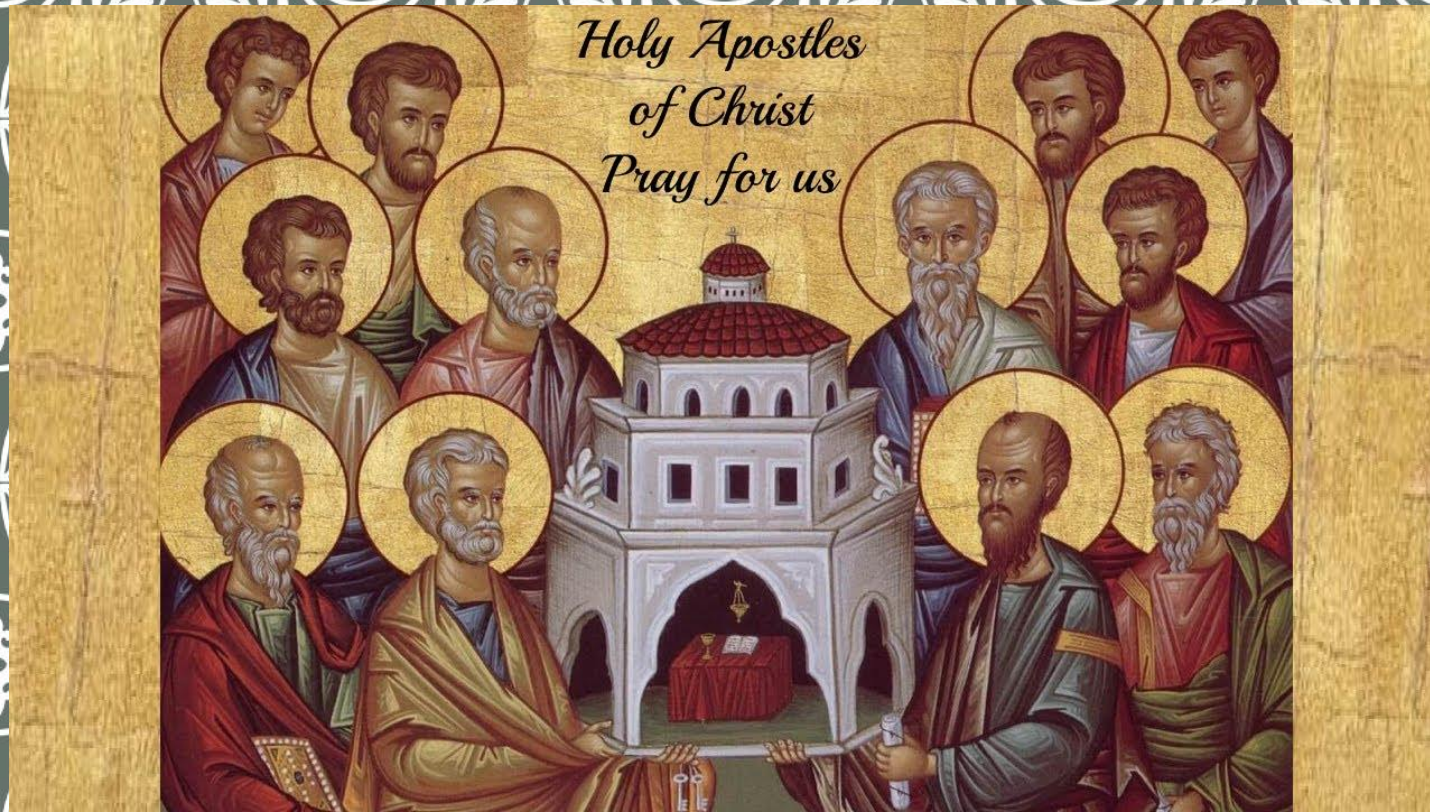
JAN | THURS | 2024
| 18 |

Zoom Details:

MEETING ID: 966 7546 8996

PASSWORD: 403123

at 8:00PM CDT



THE EARLY CHURCH PART I

The Voice Calling in the Wilderness
January 18, 2024

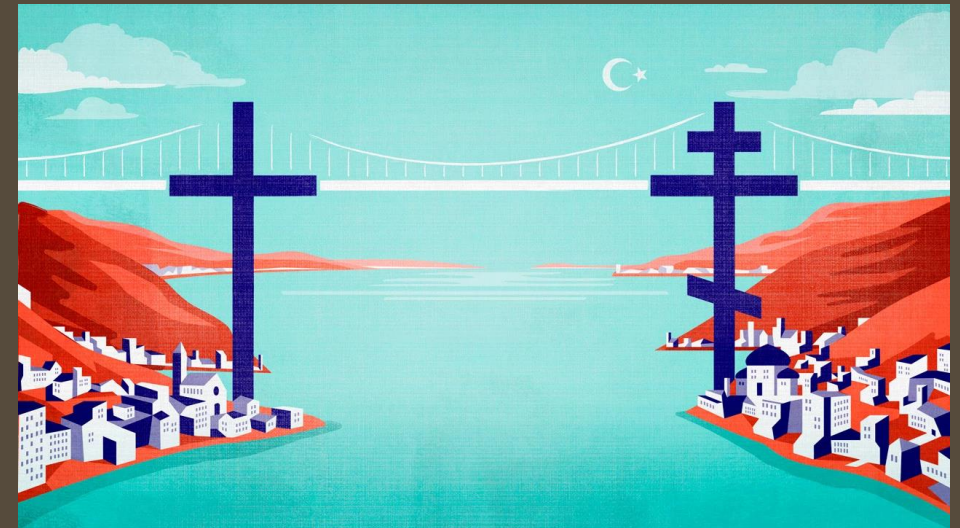
“CHURCH”

- The body of Christ
- The bride of Christ
- Followers of Christ
- An institution
- Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, etc.
- A building
- A community with religious beliefs
- To be among the rank of the ordained



“CHURCH” IN HISTORY

- ❖ 1912 – Catholicate of the East
- ❖ 1653 – Coonan Cross Oath
- ❖ 1054 – the Great Schism
- ❖ 451 – Council of Chalcedon



“CHURCH” ETYMOLOGY

- ❖ Ekklesia – Greek – an assembly
- ❖ Matthew 16:18 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.
- ❖ Qahal – Hebrew – a gathering or congregation



THE EARLY “CHURCH”

- ❖ Acts 9:2 - and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to **the Way**, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
- ❖ Acts 19:9 - But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of **the Way** before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.
- ❖ Acts 19:23 - About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning **the Way**.
- ❖ Acts 22:4 - I persecuted **this Way** to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,
- ❖ Acts 24:14 - But this I confess to you, that according to **the Way**, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,
- ❖ Acts 24:22 - But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of **the Way**, put them off, saying, “When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case.”

CONNECTING “THE WAY” TO CHRIST

- ❖ John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “**I am the way**, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- ❖ Acts 18:26 - He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him **the way of God** more accurately.
- ❖ 2 Peter 2:2 - And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them **the way of truth** will be blasphemed.
- ❖ Hebrews 10:19-20 - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by **the new and living way** that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

How does the
Church connect to
the way of Christ?

Jeremiah 35

The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the days of Jehoi'akim the son of Josi'ah, king of Judah: 2 "Go to the house of the Re'chabites, and speak with them, and bring them to the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers; then offer them wine to drink." 3 So I took Ja-azani'ah the son of Jeremiah, son of Habazzini'ah, and his brothers, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Re'chabites. 4 I brought them to the house of the Lord into the chamber of the sons of Hanan the son of Igdali'ah, the man of God, which was near the chamber of the princes, above the chamber of Ma-asei'ah the son of Shallum, keeper of the threshold. 5 Then I set before the Re'chabites pitchers full of wine, and cups; and I said to them, "Drink wine." 6 But they answered, "We will drink no wine, for Jon'adab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, 'You shall not drink wine, neither you nor your sons for ever; 7 you shall not build a house; you shall not sow seed; you shall not plant or have a vineyard; but you shall live in tents all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you sojourn.' 8 We have obeyed the voice of Jon'adab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he commanded us, to drink no wine all our days, ourselves, our wives, our sons, or our daughters, 9 and not to build houses to dwell in. We have no vineyard or field or seed; 10 but we have lived in tents, and have obeyed and done all that Jon'adab our father commanded us. 11 But when Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon came up against the land, we said, 'Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chalde'ans and the army of the Syrians.' So we are living in Jerusalem."

12 Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: 13 "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Go and say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will you not receive instruction and listen to my words? says the Lord. 14 The command which Jon'adab the son of Rechab gave to his sons, to drink no wine, has been kept; and they drink none to this day, for they have obeyed their father's command. I have spoken to you persistently, but you have not listened to me. 15 I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, sending them persistently, saying, 'Turn now every one of you from his evil way, and amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them, and then you shall dwell in the land which I gave to you and your fathers.' But you did not incline your ear or listen to me. 16 The sons of Jon'adab the son of Rechab have kept the command which their father gave them, but this people has not obeyed me. 17 Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing on Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them; because I have spoken to them and they have not listened, I have called to them and they have not answered."

18 But to the house of the Re'chabites Jeremiah said, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Because you have obeyed the command of Jon'adab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done all that he commanded you, 19 therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Jon'adab the son of Rechab shall never lack a man to stand before me."

CONNECTING THE CHURCH TO CHRIST



The Church is the assembly of people **OBEDIENT** to Christ and His Gospel.