

# The Parish VISITOR



*"Be Transformed...By the renewing of your minds." - Romans 12:2 - NIV*

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood  
4011 Clinton St., Los Angeles, CA 90004-2298  
The REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY, Pastor

cpchollywood.org

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**Our doors are OPEN;  
We are GLAD  
to have you back!**

**A**fter more than a year of being away from our campus, unable to worship together in person due to the pandemic, Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood has re-opened for in-person worship services every Sunday at 11:00 AM.

**What a joy to welcome you back in our Sanctuary!**

In addition to the in-person worship, we continue to stream the service on Zoom for those unable to attend in-person.

The invitation for joining the service can be found at the events page on our website at [cpchollywood.org](http://cpchollywood.org).

You can send in your prayer requests PRIOR to the service via email to [sbaroldy@gmail.com](mailto:sbaroldy@gmail.com) or text at 323-202-5078.

## TIME TO Celebrate

*your pastor writes*

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



**G**reetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the readers of the *Parish Visitor!*

I pray this message will be an encouragement for the times in which we live.

*Time to Celebrate-Rev. 19:1-5 Originally given on April 11 at CPC*

**Introduction:** Two celebrations. This morning we continue our series on

the book of the Revelation. We are coming close to the end and it is good news for the people of the Lamb from here on out.

Rev. 19:1-10, has two celebrations in it. The first celebration is God's judgement on Babylon.

We had a preview of this judgement in Rev. 18:20. Rev. 18:20 says, "*Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her [Babylon]!*" (Revelation 18:20, ESV)

*Continued next page*

**Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional, healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered in JESUS CHRIST.**

**“Father,  
lead us not into  
temptation  
but deliver us  
from evil.”**



And, here, in chapter 19, we see heaven rejoicing that God has given his people judgement against Babylon.

The second celebration is our invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb. All who have put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to this supper.

These two celebrations fulfill two eternal longings of our hearts. First, we long for evil to be judged. We long for evil to be “no more.” We long for all the injustices caused by the devil, and those who follow Babylon the prostitute, to be set right. Our hearts long to be set free from oppression. Our hearts long for justice. Amen!

Second, we yearn to be in the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We yearn to see his face. We yearn to feel his overwhelming love for us. We yearn to experience his supernatural joy and peace.

And not just the intermittent flashes of his love, joy and peace, that we experience now. At the marriage supper of the Lamb, we will experience the fullness of Jesus’ love, joy, peace, and contentment. This will be our constant state of being for all eternity. Don’t we long for that? Don’t we long for our spirits to be at perfect rest?

So, is your heart, mind and spirit ready to celebrate? Let’s dive into our texts. This morning we will talk about the first celebration.

**We pray for deliverance from evil:** The first celebration is this. God’s people rejoice in their deliverance from evil. And, I would say, of course, God’s people rejoice. This is what we pray for every Sunday when we recite the Lord’s Prayer. We pray, “Father, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.”

This prayer, asking the Father to deliver us from evil, is so important, Jesus put it in his model prayer. This prayer is so

important, Jesus taught that all of his disciples should pray it often. And here, the multitude in heaven is rejoicing because God has answered the prayer that Jesus’ disciples have been praying for thousands of years.

And let me just say this. God always answers prayers based on his word. The prayers are answered in God’s timing, yet they are answered. This is why the best prayers are prayers based on God’s word.

Today, the final answer to this prayer for the Father “to deliver us from evil” is still to come. Yet, Revelation, chapter 19, assures us it will come. This prayer will be answered. One day evil will be completely destroyed. Amen!

Yet, even today, this prayer is answered in ways we might not see. A while back, the Holy Spirit prompted me to pray the Lord’s prayer every day, not just on Sunday. And that is what I have been doing. So, I encourage you to consider doing the same. Evil is on the rise. It is no longer hidden. More and more, evil is out in the open. Jesus gave us this prayer for our protection and for such a time.

So, again, I encourage us to pray the Lord’s prayer every day. And, I encourage us to include God’s word in our prayers when we pray. A great way to do this is to read your bible text for the day, and, then pray out of that text.

We rejoice in our deliverance: So, moving on, let me re-read Rev. 19:1-5. *“After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”* Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.” And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures

fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great." (Revelation 19:1-5, ESV)

Do you hear the exultant praise and rejoicing here? The multitude in heaven is overjoyed because God is on his throne. They are overjoyed at the manifestation of our great God's glory and power. They are overjoyed because God brings salvation to his people. We join in the praise because our almighty God is worthy to be praised. Amen!

The three "hallelujahs" in these verses emphasize the magnitude of these praises.<sup>1</sup>

"Hallelujah" literally means "You praise Yahweh." Hallelujah is often translated simply as "praise the Lord" since devout Hebrews would not utter the sacred name of Yahweh as they feared using the Lord's name in vain.

What is interesting is that this is the only place in the New Testament where "hallelujah" is used. And it is used four times in six verses so this is significant. Why use the word "hallelujah" so many times here in chapter 19?

Well, again, we must refer to the Old Testament. The place where the word "hallelujah" is used most is in Psalms 113-118. This block of Psalms was traditionally sung at the celebration of the Jewish Passover. In fact, Jesus sang these psalms with his disciples after celebrating the Passover meal with them just before he went to the cross.

The thread that unites these psalms is God's deliverance of Israel from captivity in Egypt. These psalms are psalms of deliverance. So, we have Psalm 118:15-16, which reads, "Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: 'The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!'" (Psalm 118:15-16, ESV)

The multitude in heaven rejoices because just as God delivered his people from Egypt, by his mighty right hand, here, we have God's mighty power delivering his people from Babylon, the mother of prostitutes. The heavenly multitude is rejoicing because God has delivered his people and because Babylon is rightly judged. Rightly judged!

Now, some of you may be wondering, is it appropriate to rejoice over someone's judgement? Well, first, let's remember who Babylon is. Babylon is those nations, peoples, and systems who are empowered by the devil, and who are in rebellion against God. Babylon is the heinous manifestation of evil that persecutes and kills the people of God.

Second, God has given the followers of Babylon ample time to repent, yet they refused.

We see this in Revelation, chapter 9. Revelation, chapter 9, details the judgements of the seven trumpets. At the end of these judgements, Rev. 9:20-21 says this. "The rest of [humankind], who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they repent of

their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts." (Revelation 9:20-21, ESV)

We also see this in Revelation, chapter 16. In Revelation, chapter 16, the seven bowls of God's wrath are poured out. Rev. 16:9-11 says, "They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory. The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds." (Revelation 16:9-11, ESV)



This is so revealing of the condition of the human heart. Even after the seven horrendous plagues of Revelation, chapter 9, and seven more plagues in Revelation, chapter 16, our text says, "they did not repent."

These are some of the saddest words in the bible. Why will people not repent even after nine warnings? God's word tells us the devil has blinded the minds of unbelievers. The devil has deceived those who are in rebellion against God, and their hearts are hardened.

So, Rev. 19:2 tells us, "[God's] judgements are true and just," and, "[God] has avenged on her [Babylon] the blood his servants."

There is no justice without judgement. And it is God, in his perfect, holy nature, who does the judging. Evil must be removed. And, salvation through Jesus Christ is available to all who will repent. So, yes, we rejoice because God's judgements are true and just. We rejoice because God's justice has prevailed.

And, yes, we continue to pray for nations and peoples to repent so they won't face judgement. Yet, at the same time, we rejoice in our deliverance from evil. And, we rejoice that justice is done. Amen! Let's pray.

1. This line of reasoning is laid out by Darrell Johnson in his book, "Discipleship on the Edge, (Vancouver, B.C., Regent College Publishing, 2004) p.305ff.



**M**any people do not understand when a Christian tells them they need to be “saved.” Saved from what they ask. They assume because they are “good” people they will automatically go to heaven. So, let’s examine what it means to be “saved” from a biblical perspective.

The bible is very clear that no person is “good.” We may do some good deeds, yet we are not “good.” Instead the bible says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:23, ESV) And “the wages of sin is death.” (Rom. 6:23,ESV)

Now, you might be thinking, “What are you talking about? I think I am good enough.” Let me give you a short test. We need to examine ourselves in light of God’s ten commandments. For instance, have you ever lied? Have you ever stolen anything, even something small? Have you ever taken the Lord’s name in vain? Have you ever coveted what someone else has? Have you ever lusted after someone in your heart?

Every person, if being honest, must answer yes to one, or all, of these questions. And these are only five of God’s ten commandments. In sum, we all fall short of how God expects us to live. And this separates us from God. God is morally perfect. God is just and holy. And God will not have our disobedience, God will not have our disloyalty, God will not have our sin, in his presence. That is the Bad News.

Now, here is the Good News. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, ESV)

God loves us so much that God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our substitute. Jesus Christ died on a Roman Cross, in our place, to pay a sin debt we could never pay on

our own. Eph. 1:7 says, “In him [in Jesus Christ] we have redemption through his blood [through his death], the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.” (Eph. 1:7, ESV)

And because Jesus died for us, in our place, God’s word declares that “whoever believes in him [and commits to following him because faith must manifest itself in action] should not perish but have eternal life.”

Jesus Christ died to pay our sin debt for us. And then, the power of God raised Jesus from the dead to prove that God’s love had overcome the penalty of sin. When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, his life, through the power of God, the Holy Spirit, comes to dwell in us giving us eternal life. The forgiveness of our sins; the giving of eternal life through the indwelling of God, the Holy Spirit; this is what it means to be “saved.”

All we need to do is respond to what Jesus has already done. So, let me ask you directly. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? If not, you may begin a new relationship with Jesus by saying this prayer.

“Dear heavenly Father, I come to you in Jesus’ name. I admit that I have disobeyed you, and have been disloyal to you, in many ways (name your specific sins as you are able). I am sorry. I believe Jesus Christ died in my place, for my sins. I ask for forgiveness of my sins through Jesus Christ. I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I ask for your Holy Spirit to come and fill me, and empower me to follow Jesus Christ from this day forward. Thank you Lord, for this tremendous gift of salvation. Amen.”

If you have prayed this prayer for the first time, please let us know. You can contact me at [sbaroldy@gmail.com](mailto:sbaroldy@gmail.com) or call 323-202-5078.

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation.  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.



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## FINANCIAL REPORT

APRIL  
2021

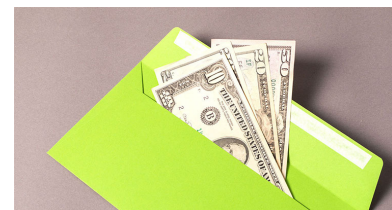


	<u>APRIL 2021</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 23,148	\$ 44,441
Disbursements	\$ 12,254	\$ 48,477
Increase (Deficit)	\$ 10,894	(\$ 4,036)

## PRAYER Request

If you have prayer requests, you can send them via email or text PRIOR to our service each Sunday. My email is sbaroldy@gmail.com. You can text me at 323-202-5078.

## Gifts & Offering



**T**he Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives. Amidst all the challenges, CPC is doing all we can to serve our church, to connect people to one another, and to connect all of us to God through our online worship.

We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting our mission and NOW more than ever we need your help for us to continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and give hope to others.

Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood  
4011 Clinton Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Let us remember to keep in our prayers the church family and friends who are in need of God's healing touch: overall healing for Kimi Fujitani, Charles Ingram, Janet Nozaki, Frank Morimoto, Stella Kenner, Karen Koranye, Lashman Johal, Pastor Steve, Martin; healing of knee and wrist of Maria Cardenas and prayers for Marley, Hunter, Cousin Dari, and Aunt Laley; overall healing for Ron Jung; healing and God's blessings for Harumi Mayeda; strength to care for her Mom for Irene Mayeda; overall healing for Joan Janecek; healing of legs of Sherri Esaki; healing of back and leg pain for Yuri Sangen; healing of left foot and diabetes for Denise Albriton; overall healing and healing of cancer in nostril of Brian Albriton; prayers for Pastor Steve, his wife Simone and their daughters Nicole and Noelle and David and Alice; revival for CPC and neighborhood, our elders, Faro de Luz Church, outreach to community, unsaved relatives and friends, and protection against major disaster.

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