

The Parish Visitor

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

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While We Wait

PART II



your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY

This month we will finish our two- part series on the Lord's Second Coming. The Holy Spirit gave the Apostle Paul this revelation that we might be encouraged as we wait. Let it be so Lord!

While we Wait Part 2, 1Thess 4:13-18, Originally given on July 14, 2019 at CPC

Introduction: The glorified, resurrected Lord Jesus Christ is coming back one amazing day. Amen!

This morning I want to continue to talk about the blessed hope of his return. So, let's turn once again to our passage from 1Thessalonians, chapter 4.

1Thess 4:13-18 says this, *"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers [and sisters], about those who are asleep [have died], that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep [died]. "For this we declare to*

...For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God...

you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words."
(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, ESV)

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

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When JESUS CHRIST RETURNS, he ushers in the new heaven and the new earth. ALL CREATION WILL BE RESTORED. This brings about the time of “no mas.” No more. No more death. No more sin. No more sorrow. No more pain.

Last week, we talked about how Jesus' followers do not grieve as those who have no hope. Yes, we grieve when a loved one passes away. Yet, we do not grieve as those who have no hope because we have a living hope. Our living hope is Jesus Christ who died and rose again. And because Jesus Christ died and rose again, so too will those who receive him unto eternal life.

And, our text tells us when Jesus Christ returns, he is bringing with him all those who died believing in him. And that will be an awesome reunion!

We also began to talk about the order of events surrounding his return. The first event is Jesus Christ, himself, will descend from heaven. Jesus ascended in a cloud of God's manifest glory and he will descend in the same way. And when he returns, Jesus Christ's return will be personal, it will be visible, and it will be audible. All of creation will know when Jesus returns.

Also, when Jesus Christ returns, he ushers in the new heaven and the new earth. All creation will be restored. This brings about the time of “no mas.” No more. No more death. No more sin. No more sorrow. No more pain. Now, take a moment, and imagine what his return will be like. How do you feel when you imagine Jesus' return?

And finally, we discussed the fact that when Jesus Christ returns the time for choosing him is over. Two events end our ability to choose Jesus. The first is our death. The second is Jesus' return. Whichever comes first ends our ability to choose him.

Those who don't choose him will go through the great white throne judgement where they will be judged for what they have done, not for what Jesus has done for them. And none will stand.

So, our most important assignment while we wait for Jesus' return is to pray, and testify and witness to Jesus, that many will be brought into eternal life in Jesus Christ. So, now, let's continue on with the order of events of Jesus' return.

The Dead in Christ rise first: So, first, the Lord Jesus Christ descends from heaven ushering in the new heaven and the new earth. Then, at his command, the dead in Christ rise first. In others words, those who have already died, in Christ, will receive their eternal, glorified, resurrection bodies.

Now, what happens when a believer dies? When a believer in Jesus Christ dies, their spirit and their body are separated. Their spirit immediately goes to be with Jesus in heaven, while their physical body is put into the ground. So, all the righteous, who have died, in Christ, are with Jesus in heaven right now.

We know this from two passages. The first is Luke 23:43. Here, Jesus speaks to the thief on the Cross. The thief asks Jesus to remember him when Jesus comes into his kingdom.

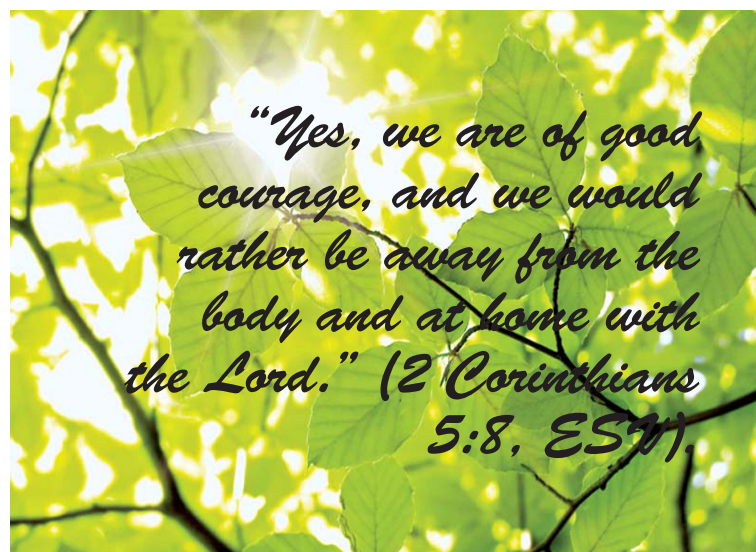
Jesus tells the thief, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Jesus says **today**, after you die, you will be with me in Paradise. **Today** you will be with me. Can you imagine hearing any sweeter words from Jesus? These are the words Jesus will say to us when our time comes.

Also, in 2 Cor. 5:8. The Apostle Paul writes, *“Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”* (2 Corinthians 5:8, ESV).

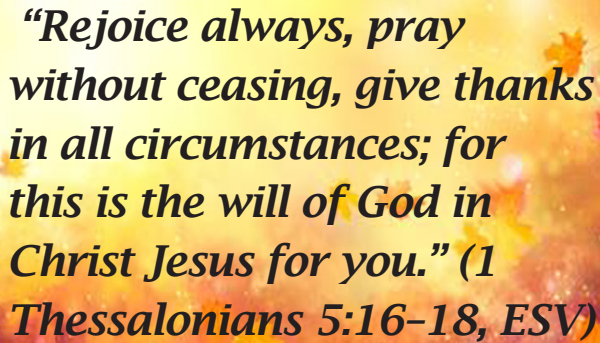
Paul tells us that to be away from the body is to be home with the Lord. So, those who have died in Christ are conscious. They are living beings who are present with the Lord.

Yet, they do not have their resurrection body. They are in an intermediate state. That all changes when Jesus Christ returns. When Christ returns, these saints are clothed with their resurrection bodies.

1Cor. 15:51-54 tells us about these bodies. Paul writes, *“Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet [the trumpet that sounds when Jesus*



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“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, ESV)

descends]. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we [who are alive] shall be changed [transformed]. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” (1 Corinthians 15:51–54, ESV)

Again, this is thrilling stuff! Paul tells us that, in the twinkling of an eye, in a split second, we will all be changed, we will all be transformed, as we receive our resurrection bodies.

And, according to this passage, our resurrection bodies are incredible. First, Paul tells us our resurrection bodies are imperishable. Imperishable means our bodies will never decay. In other words, they will not go through an aging process.

Next, Paul tells us our resurrection bodies are immortal. Our resurrection bodies are made for eternity. They will never die.

So, our new, resurrection bodies will not age, and they will never die. This is eternal life. Think about that for a moment. How does that make you feel?

Our new bodies demonstrate Jesus Christ’s victory over death. Jesus Christ is victorious over death. Amen! And, because of his victory, we will be body, soul, and spirit for all eternity. We will live in a restored creation for all eternity. Sounds incredible, doesn’t it?

Here’s the order so far. Jesus Christ descends, and then, the dead in Christ are raised first, and receive their glorified, resurrection bodies.

Those who are alive are changed: And, then, last, but not

least, those who are alive at the time of Jesus Christ’s return, are also transformed, and will rise up to meet Jesus, and the company of saints with him. They will all meet in the air.

This is awesome! Those who are alive at the Lord’s return will never experience death. Their current bodies, in the twinkling of an eye, will be transformed into their new imperishable, immortal bodies, and they will join the party in the air.

And there’s a part of me that cries out “Come Lord Jesus come!” I’m tired of the sin and pain and suffering. Yet, there’s another part that says “wait” so more can come into eternal life. Yet, the Lord will come when he comes.

Be encouraged: Paul finishes this 1 Thessalonians passage by saying, *“And so all will be with the Lord always. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:18, ESV)

“And so all will be with the Lord always.” For the rest of eternity, those who are in Christ will be with the Lord. We will be in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever. Can you imagine how wonderful that will be? Isn’t that encouraging? This is why the Spirit gave Paul this word. For our encouragement. So, let’s be encouraged.

Our Lord Jesus is alive and will return one glorious day. Our Lord Jesus is victorious over death. Our loved ones who died in Christ are with Jesus and will return with him. And, when we die, we will go to be with Jesus and also return with him.

And if we are alive when Jesus returns, we will never die. We will be transformed and simply join the party in the air. This is our blessed hope!

While we wait: So, what do we do while we wait for the Lord’s return? As we already talked about, we pray, we give our testimonies, and we tell people about the Lord Jesus Christ. And, we live our lives in accordance with God’s word which is a testimony to those who don’t follow Jesus Christ.

1Thess. 5:16–18 give us a condensed version of how we are to live. These verses say, *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, ESV)

So, let us live joyful and thankful lives as we patiently await his return. We are joyful and thankful because we know no trial, no hardship, no persecution, can stop Jesus’ return, or stop us from being with him for all eternity. Amen!

See you next month,
Pastor Steve

Thanks, Yasuko!

Recently, part of a bequest left to the church by Yasuko Endo was used to replace the old picture windows in the Fellowship Hall. The result has been such a beautiful transformation for church-goers to enjoy while having lunch during the Sunday fellowship hours.

The windows look out to the special flower and plant garden and the view is quite spectacular. If you haven't seen it yet, come and visit us soon.



*So warmly welcome each other into the church,
just as Christ has warmly welcomed you;
then God will be glorified.*

—Romans 15:7 (The Living Bible)

RETURNING VISITOS

We welcome returning visitors to the summer worship services on Sunday morning at Church.

Welcome again to:

- Lynn Doores and her daughter, Jessica, of Los Angeles, made return visits on August 18 and 25.
- Wes Weisman and his friend, Esther, of Los Angeles, made a return visit on August 25.

Iris Sigera, of Los Angeles, returned to visit the church again on August 25.

Welcome to all of our returning guests.

Thank You!
From BRIAN & DENISE ALBRITON

Brian & Denise Albriton would like to express their deepest gratitude to the members of Christ Presbyterian Church and everyone who generously extended their assistance to fund Brian's transportation expenses when he underwent several weeks of therapy treatment for his nasal cancer.

CPC



Christ Presbyterian Church is hosting RUMMAGE SALES every last Sunday of the month. The sale is held from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Church Community Hall throughout the summer months. Clothing, shoes, accessories, housewares, books, collectibles, gift items, school supplies, toys and many other items are on sale.

Come early, browse, and shop at the rummage sale and check out many interesting finds.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT



AUGUST 2019

| | <u>AUGUST 2019</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Receipts | \$ 7,772 | \$ 100,264 |
| Disbursements | \$ 11,642 | \$ 104,748 |
| Increase (Deficit) | (\$ 3,869) | (\$ 4,484) |

Gift & Offering

*Please help us 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*



Join us for
WORSHIP

11:00 A.M. SUNDAY SERVICE

We cordially welcome you to join us for worship on Sundays. Those who are worshipping with us for the first time, please sign the guest book which is on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. After service, please join us for a time of fellowship in the social hall.

welcome

Notices & Announcements

Kimi Fujitani's new permanent mailing address is 1763 Royak Oaks Dr., Apt C-26, Bradbury, CA 91010. Please no visitors but Kimi would welcome email communication at khFujitani@gmail.com.

The Parish Visitor Staff requests your help to ensure that events of our congregation are reported in our newsletter in a timely fashion.

To share photos and other events, please email them to wagnerella@yahoo.com.

You may also send news and other information to the church office at the following address:

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

Pastor Steve's contact number: (323) 202-5078.

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, Brian Albriton, Lashman Johal, Mary Nomoto, Pastor Steve, Martin, Ron Jung; healing of knee of Maria Cardenas; healing and God's blessings for Harumi Mayeda; strength to care for her Mom for Irene Mayeda; healing of legs of Sherri Esaki; healing of back and leg pain for Yuri Sangen; healing of left foot and diabetes for Denise Albriton; healing of back for Joan Janecek; prayers for Pastor Steve, his wife Simone and their daughters Nicole and Noelle and David and Alice; prayers for Rev. Tamara John and her next call; revival for CPC and neighborhood, our elders, Faro de Luz Church, outreach to community, unsaved relatives and friends, and protection against major disaster.

"Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered by Jesus Christ."

DATED MATERIAL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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