

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

January 2020
VOL. LXXIV NO. 1

FAITH & Mission



your pastor writes
By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the readers of the *Parish Visitor*! This month, we have part three of a new series on Christ Presbyterian Church's Vision Statement. I pray this message will encourage us to go and do the same works Jesus did.

On another note, please forgive me for not getting the *Parish Visitor* out in November and December 2019. We were in the process of getting our new website and podcasting site up and running. This January 2020 issue will catch everybody up on what has been happening these last two months.

You can access our new website at cpchollywood.org. We are still in the process of building it out yet you can access the weekly messages and the newsletter there. Also, you can hear our weekly messages on podbean.com. Search for "cpchollywood."

Now, onto this month's message.

Faith and Mission, originally given at CPC on August 4, 2019.

Introduction: The body of Christ is called to continue Jesus Christ's ministry here on earth. This is our mission. This is our calling.

Continued next page

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

Highlights of CPC's Christmas worship

Story on Page 4



Sunday School kids & youth told the story of the birth of Jesus.



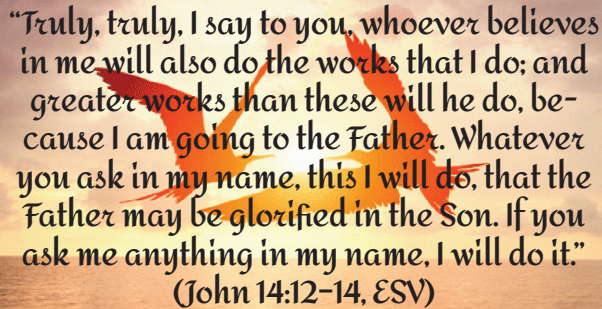
Jimi Yamagishi honored the birth of our Savior through music and songs.



Kris Lin performed a special worship hula.



Pastor Steve and Mrs. Simone Baroldy lit the Christ Candle.



"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."
(John 14:12-14, ESV)

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have defined our part of Jesus' continuing mission this way. It's on the back of our bulletins. Our vision statement says, "Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional, healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered in Jesus Christ." This is our vision of who we aspire to be.

The last two weeks I have been talking about the Holy Spirit and Mission. These two messages can be summed up this way. One Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. One Body, the body of Christ. One mission, the mission of Christ. And, same works, in that Jesus promised we will do the same works as he did.

Jesus tells us we will do the same works he did in John 14:12-14. Jesus says, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."* (John 14:12-14, ESV)

Again, these verses are simply astounding. Jesus tells his disciples they will do the same works he did after Jesus has performed the seven, incredible miracles that are recorded in the gospel of John.

We looked at them last week. Jesus did miracles that overcame the laws of nature; miracles of physical healing; miracles of provision; miracles of life overcoming death. These miracles restored families and restored community relationships. Jesus' miracles always propelled people forward into a more abundant life.

Now, initially, for today, I was going to continue forward with the series. And, I started a couple of messages, and actually made substantial progress on them. Yet, I had trouble completing them. I did not feel settled in my spirit that I had the message the Spirit wanted to give.

So, I kept praying and, finally, I believe I found the thread the Holy Spirit wanted me to pursue. I believe the Spirit was showing me the revelation of John 14:12-14 is so astonishing; and the implications of John 14:12-14 are so massive, that we needed more time to sit with these verses.

Why? Because implementing the truth of John 14:12-14 into our lives and our ministry requires a major transformation of our minds. It takes time for life changing spiritual truth to sink in, and to transform how we think and act in the natural world.

In short, it takes faith, faith which we may not have, to put John 14:12-14 into action. So, we are going to talk about faith this morning.

The concerns of faith: And I want to start with Heb. 11:3. Hebrews chapter 11 is the great discourse on faith. This chapter highlights the faithful men and women of the Old Testament who acted in the certainty of receiving what God promised, despite the fact God had not yet given the promise. Every person in the chapter is a living illustration of faith in action.

So, Heb. 11:3 says, *"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."* (Hebrews 11:3, ESV) This verse gives us the elements with which faith is concerned, or which faith is related to.

The verse says, *"the universe was created by the word of God."* So, faith is related to the creative power of the word of God.

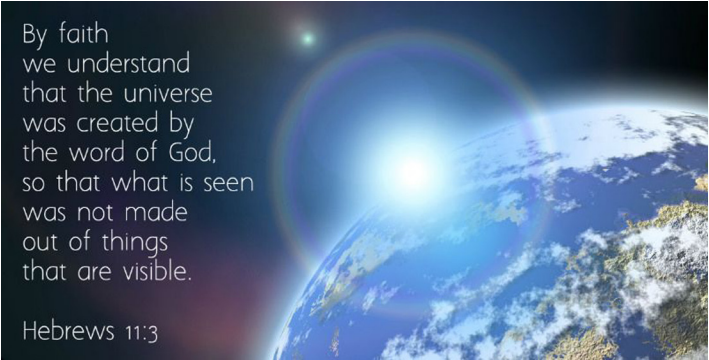
And the verse continues, *"so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."* So, faith is concerned with unseen things that become visible.

The takeaway here is this. The creative power of the word of God is able to make things visible that are currently invisible. So, the word of God can make things that exist in the unseen, spiritual realm visible in our physical realm. And faith is involved in this happening.

By faith we understand: Now, the first four words of this verse are, *"By faith we understand."* It is by faith we understand biblical truth. It is by faith we understand spiritual truth. It is by faith that we understand what exists in the unseen spiritual realm.

Now, before we get too far, let's define faith. Faith means "to believe," it means "to trust," it means to have conviction in something or someone. So, for the Christian, faith is a constant outlook of trust and dependence towards God, and towards his word.

And, here is the key point concerning faith. Living faith, or faith that is alive, **acts** on its conviction. Faith is persistent in



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Hebrews 11:3

acting on its conviction. If we are not willing to act, if we are not willing to risk, we don't have living faith. Or you could say we don't have faith that works.

So, what is it that keeps us from acting on our faith? For instance, what holds us back from acting on the spiritual truth we have been given in John 14:12-14?

There are many things, yet here are two. Spiritual truth, or biblical truth, often clashes with what we have been taught. Much of what we have been taught, much of what we believe, is based only on what we can apprehend with our senses. We have faith in what we can see, hear, taste, touch and smell. How many times have we heard "seeing is believing?"

Also, we don't want to take the risk of being embarrassed. We may pray according to biblical truth and not see any change. So, we struggle with putting our faith in the unseen. We struggle with believing the unseen can be made visible. This is human nature.

This is why we need a transformation of our minds. This is why we need to retrain our minds to think biblically, to see things from God's perspective.

Heb. 11:3 says "By faith we understand." Here is the process God has designed to transform our minds. God has given us his word to reveal spiritual truth to us, to reveal what is currently unseen. Our spirit, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, apprehends the truth first. These are the "aha" moments.

These are the times a verse, or a word in a verse, seems to jump out at us. We may not understand what the verse is saying, yet our spirit is quickened. Have you had that happen?

This truth does not come through our physical senses. It comes through our spirit. And then, our spirit communicates the truth to our mind. And we are able to discern, yes, that it truth. We understand the truth by faith. We have faith in the truth even though we can't see it.

And once we understand by faith, we must act on that faith to see the spiritual truth manifest in the natural. Why? Because spiritual truth, and the spiritual realm, only manifests in the physical realm by faith.

This is the basis of prayer. We pray because we have faith that God hears and answers our prayers. This is spiritual truth because God word reveals this to us.

Yet, to see prayers answered we must act on our faith. So, we pray, and we pray specifically. And often, we see the prayer answered, right? This is faith in action.

So, if we want to see the truth of John 14:12-14 manifest in the physical realm, we act in faith. We pray in faith. We pray with conviction. We pray persistently. We maintain a constant belief in Jesus' words and we act on his words.

Yet, here is another struggle. We may not see the manifestation of the spiritual truth in the physical world right away. The Old Testament saints did not see the promise of Messiah fulfilled.

SO THEN FAITH COMETH
BY HEARING, AND HEARING
BY THE WORD OF GOD.

ROMANS 10:17

Yet, they still acted in faith.

Faith comes from hearing: Because we may not see things right away, our faith needs to be continually bolstered. It needs to be continually strengthened. And that happens through hearing testimonies. That happens through hearing the word of God.

Romans 10:17 tells us this. It says, "*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*" (Romans 10:17, ESV)

Faith comes from hearing. And we need to hear again and again because faith is always present tense. Faith is always now. There is no day old faith. Faith is always now.

So, this morning, and every Sunday for that matter, is an opportunity to build faith, through hearing the word of God, and through testimonies.

We want to give our spirits a chance to apprehend spiritual truth by faith. We want to give our spirit the opportunity to communicate that truth to our minds so we will act on it. Amen!

The gift of faith: Now God has given us one other gift to help us in this process. 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, gives us the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. One of the gifts is the gift of faith in found in 1 Cor. 12:9. "*to another [is given] faith by the same Spirit,*" (1 Corinthians 12:9, ESV).

What is the gift of faith? The New Spirit Filled Life Bible, edited by Pastor Jack Hayford, gives us this description. "The gift of faith is a unique form of faith that goes beyond natural faith and saving faith. It supernaturally trusts and does not doubt with reference to the specific matters involved."

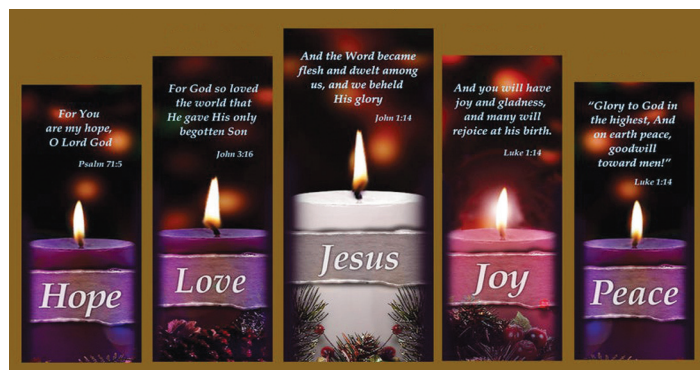
Sometimes we need this gift of faith to trust God's promises, to trust God's word. So, I want to pray for God to give each of us a gift of faith to believe him for big things in our lives and in our church. Let's pray.

Remembering Our Savior's Birth on the Fourth Sunday in Advent

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood celebrated Christmas with a special Sunday Morning Service on December 22, 2019, the Fourth Sunday in Advent.

Joy Boyagian and Maria Flores lit the Fourth Candle, called the "Angel's Candle", which represents peace. Afterwards they shared their earliest memories of Christmas.

Ida Murakawa's Sunday School class presented a Christmas program. Eric and Kris Lin's children Jordan and Zoey opened the program by singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. The presentation was led by youth members Francis and



Karina. The children presented the story of the birth of Jesus by reading passages from the Bible and then singing a medley of Christmas carols, that include: "Away in a Manger," "Joy to the World," "O, Come, Let Us Adore Him," and "Feliz

Navidad."

This was followed by songs from Brian Albriton, Tom Chinen, and Jimi Yamagishi.

Brian sang "Mary's Boy Child—Jesus Christ" and "Thank You, Lord, For Saving

My Soul."

Tom Chinen sang "Hallelujah Christmas," "The Savior is Waiting," and "Revelation 3:20 – Behold, I stand At the Door and Knock," and Jimi Yamagishi sang "The light of Christmas is Jesus," Christmas song he wrote some time ago.

Kris Lin performed a specially choreographed aworship hula to Hillsong United's "Oceans." She reminded that God is sovereign and is in control.

Pastor Steve and Mrs. Simone Baroldy lit the "Christ candle," which signifies light and purity.



Jimi Yamagishi



Tom Chinen



Jordan & Zoey



Brian Albriton



Kris Lin

In Memory...

Los Angeles area resident Henry M. Yokoyama, 94, passed away on November 7, 2019.

Henry was a regular worship service attendee at CPC of Hollywood.

Henry was an army veteran of the Korean War. He lived in the Jefferson Park area of Los Angeles.



Family services took place on December 1, at Fukui

Mortuary's "Chapel in the Garden."

The private family services was conducted by the Rev. Dennis Sato, a retired Free Methodist minister.

May God be with Henry's son, Marvin, his grand daughter and great grand daughter and many other relatives.

Note of Thanks

Michael Morrow, of First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, assisted CPC of Hollywood with changing the 500-watt mogul base light bulb in the Sanctuary using the tallest ladder. Michael was assisted by Jimi Yamagishi and the job of changing the light bulb was done quickly and safely last Sunday afternoon (December 1, 2019).

Thank you to Michael for his assistance.

January 2020 • The Parish Visitor

Notices & Announcements

The series on Revelation is available on Podbean.com. Download the free Podbean app for your phone or computer and search for "CPChollywood" You may have to register for a free account.

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Visit us on our website at cpchollywood.org.

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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.

* * *

To share photos and other events in the Parish Visitor, 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

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

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Sakura Garden's Worship Service on the second Saturday of each month.

FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2019



	DEC. 2019	YTD
Receipts	\$ 30,514	\$ 160,957
Disbursements	\$ 13,122	\$ 153,442
Increase (Deficit)	\$ 17,192	\$ 7,515

Dear CPC family and friends,

I want to take a moment and praise God for his amazing faithfulness as shown through your generous giving to support our ministry here at CPC. We ended the year with a surplus! Please know we never take your generosity for granted and we strive to be faithful stewards of what has been entrusted to us. Let me end by simply saying "thank you."

Pastor Steve

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

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.



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.

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 and no more surgeries for Ron Jung; healing and God's blessings for Harumi Mayeda; strength to care for her Mom for Irene Mayeda; healing of back 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; healing of eye of Eric Lin; 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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DATED MATERIAL

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Published by
the Parish Visitor
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