

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
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cpchollywood.org

JANUARY

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FINAL EXHORTATIONS

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! Happy New Year! We continue the messages from the last chapter of the last book of the Bible. These messages talk about our eternal destiny in Jesus Christ. I pray they will encourage you.

Final Exhortations, Rev. 22:6-21, originally given on 040322 at CPC

Introduction: Warren Wiersbe, in his commentary on the Revelation said this. "Heaven is more than a destination, it is a motivation." I like that. In other words, knowing heaven is our destination motivates us in this life. We want to do whatever it takes to get us there. Amen!

The book of Hebrews tells us the desire for heaven motivated the Old Testament patriarchs. It motivated

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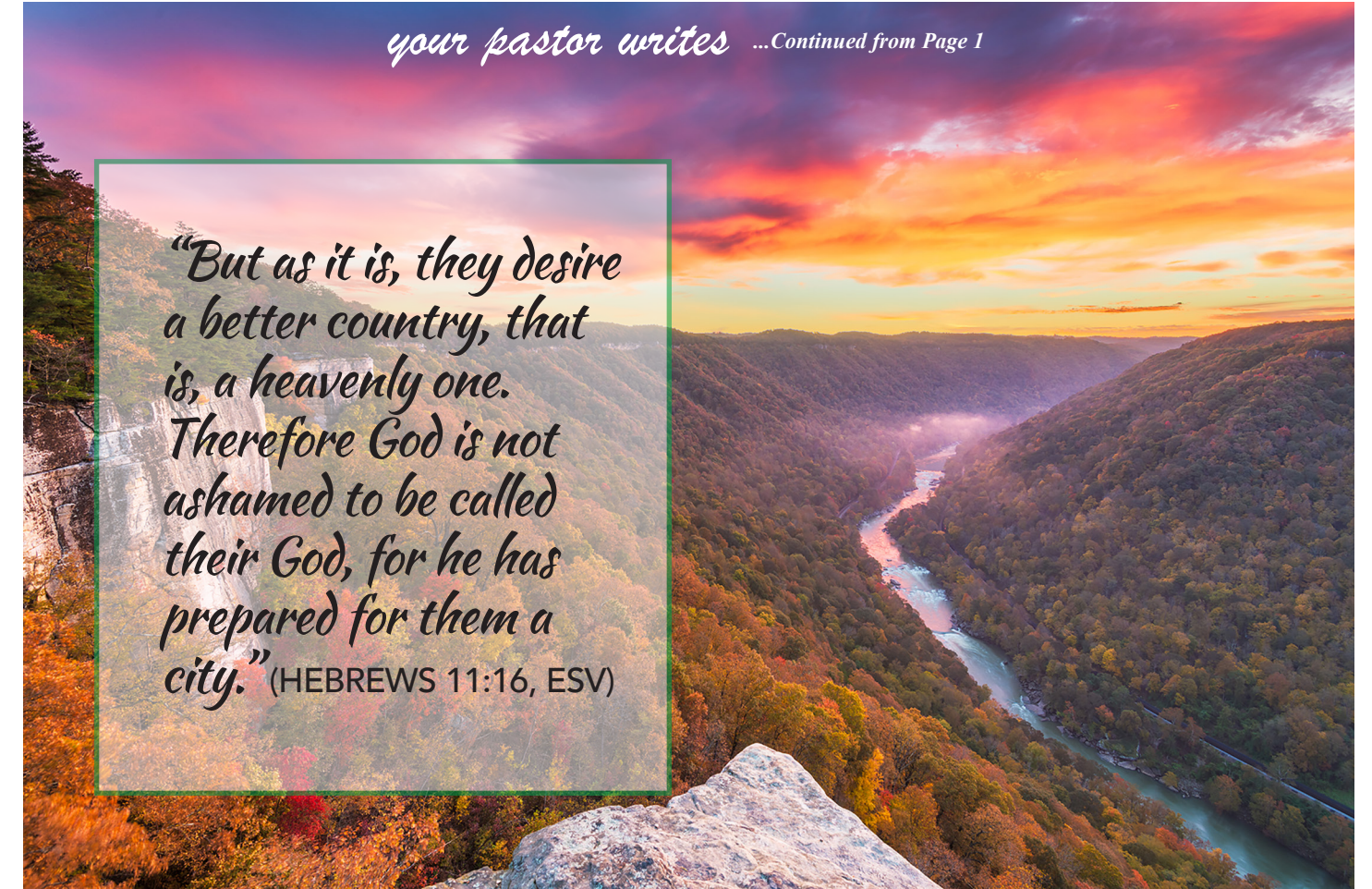


In addition to the in-person worship, we continue to stream the service on Zoom for those unable to attend in-person.

The invitation for joining the service can be found at the events page on our website at cpchollywood.org.

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

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



“But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.” (HEBREWS 11:16, ESV)

Abraham to leave his home and go the Promised Land as God had directed him.

Heb. 11:8, and 10 says, *“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going . . . For he [Abraham] was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.”* (Hebrews 11:10, ESV)

By faith, Abraham obeyed, because Abraham was looking forward to being in the Holy City as described in Revelation, chapters 21 and 22.

Also, Heb. 11:16 says, *“But as it is, they [those listed in Hebrews chapter 11, the chapter of faith] desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”* (Hebrews 11:16, ESV)

The Old Testament patriarchs longed for heaven. Their desire was for heaven. And that desire encouraged their faith.

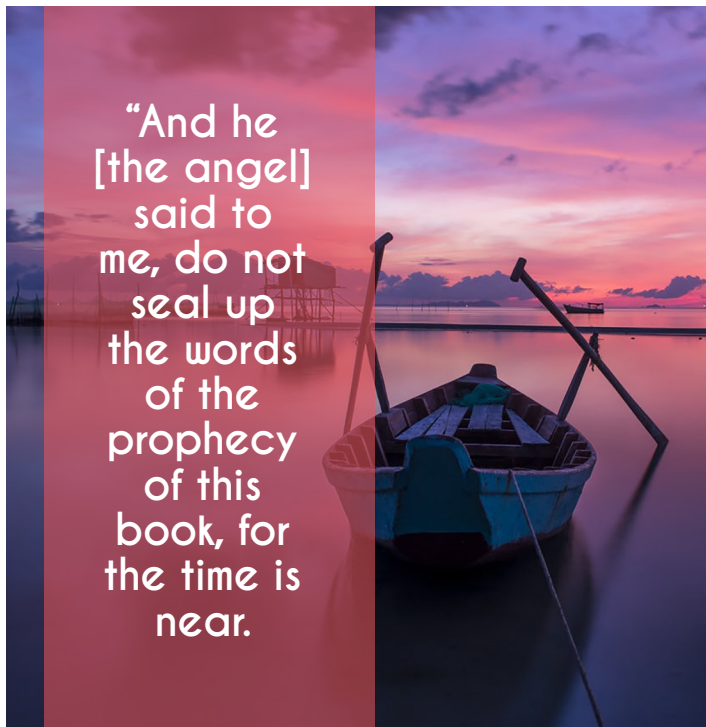
Our desire for heaven also encourages our faith, doesn't it? So, this morning, we will look at the final exhortations in these last verses of the Revelation. Through these exhortations, the Holy Spirit is encouraging faith. The Holy Spirit is stirring up our hope for heaven.

The words of the prophecy motivate us. First, let's look at verses 10-11. They read, *“And he [the angel] said to me, do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”* (Revelation 22:10-11, ESV)

The angel tells John in verse 10, *“do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.”* God did not intend the prophecies in the book of the Revelation to be kept secret. Christianity is not a secret society. Instead, we are told to read the words of the Revelation aloud, not only to ourselves, but to others. We are exhorted to spread these words of God because Jesus can return at any time.

This links to what the angel says in the next verse. The angel continues in verse 11, *“Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”* Here is what I believe the angel is saying. Because Jesus can return at any time, the prophecies contained in the Revelation are intended to lead people to repentance.

The verses about the Great White Throne judgement, in chapter 20, should lead people to repentance. How can you read about this judgement and not ponder your eternal destiny?



“And he [the angel] said to me, do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.”

If it doesn't affect you, you have become hard hearted.

This is what verse 11 is talking about. If you hear these prophecies and continue on the same path, then, the evildoer will still do evil, and the filthy will still be filthy. In other words, if someone hears these words and doesn't repent, their hearts will harden further. It will be harder for the Holy Spirit to reach them.

On the other hand, for those in Christ, these words encourage the righteous to continue doing the right thing. The words encourage the righteous, who are in Christ, to continue living a holy life. These words help them overcome present circumstances. These words encourage them to remain faithful until death so they receive the blessings of heaven.

So, the first exhortation, in these last verses, is to hear; to read aloud the words of the Revelation. First, that people might hear, and repent, and come to faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. And second, that those who are in Jesus Christ might continue to live righteous and holy lives, and be counted as one of the overcomers who inherit the crown of life in heaven.

Are you inside or outside? Next, let's look at verses 14-15. They read, *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”* (Revelation 22:14-15, ESV)

These verses are both a confirmation and an exhortation. These verses confirm that some will be inside the gates of the holy city, and some will be outside the gates of the holy city.

Who is inside the city gates? Those who have washed their robes. Verse 14 says, *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.”*

What does it mean to “wash” your robes? Revelation, chapter 7, helps us understand this.

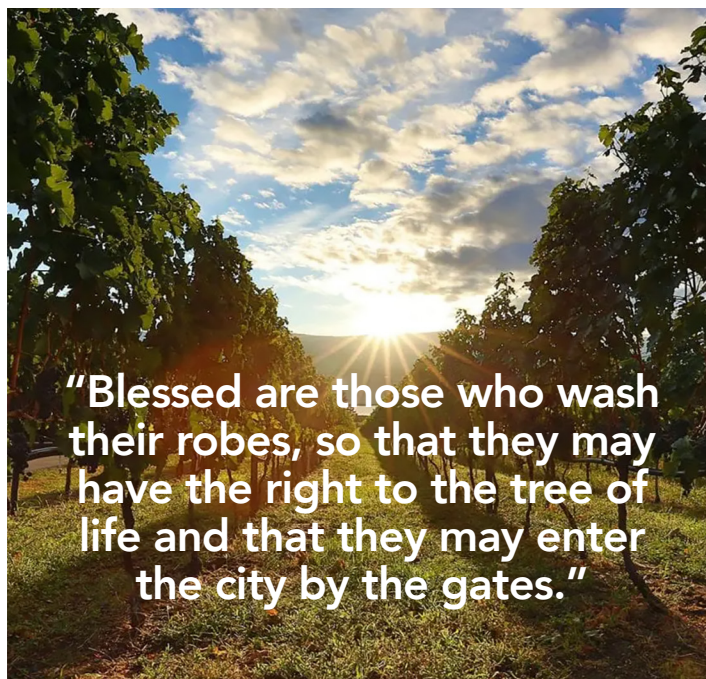
Rev. 7:9 says, *“After this I [John] looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,”* (Revelation 7:9, ESV)

And then Rev. 7:13-14 says, *“Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”* (Revelation 7:13-14, ESV)

How do we wash our robes so that they are white, white being a symbol of righteousness? We wash them in the blood of the Lamb. Which means we repent and receive Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

Jesus' shed blood blots out the crimson stains of our sin, and makes our robes white. White robes symbolize we are now righteous before God. And when we do that, when we

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“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.”



of [King] David." Here Jesus claims he is both divine and human. Jesus Christ is the "root" of David. In other words, Jesus Christ is David's creator. Jesus Christ brought David into existence. This speaks of Jesus Christ's divinity. At the same time, Jesus is a descendant of David. Jesus was born a Jew from the lineage of David. This speaks of Jesus' humanity.

This reminds us of Isa. 9:6 which says, "*For to us a child is born [speaking of Jesus' humanity], to us a son is given [speaking of Jesus' divinity]; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*" (Isaiah 9:6, ESV)

Again, that Jesus Christ is "*the root and the descendant of David*" confirms that Jesus is the promised Messiah and his words are true.

The exhortation in this verse is the last part. Jesus says he is the "bright morning star." Why the bright morning star?

The morning star appears when the night has reached its greatest degree of darkness. Even though it is still dark, and even though dawn is still three or four hours away, the morning star signals that night is almost over. When we see the morning star, we know the night is defeated, it is only a matter of time.

Jesus tells us he is the bright morning star. Jesus encourages us that although things still seem dark, his return is right around the corner. Jesus exhorts us to keep our eyes on the heavens, to keep our eyes on him, because he has defeated the night, and the light of his deliverance shines even now.

The gospel of John, chapter one, verse 5, puts it this way. "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*" (John 1:5, ESV) Jesus is the bright morning star. His light shines in the darkness. The darkness cannot overcome his light. This is our hope.

Heaven is more than a destination. It is a motivation. So, we proclaim the words of the Revelation; we wash our robes in the blood the Lamb; and we keep our eyes on the bright morning star. Jesus Christ has defeated the night. The daylight of his kingdom is right around the corner. Amen!

See you next month,

Pastor Steve

1. Wiersbe, W. W., *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton Ill., Victor Books, 1989) p. 624

DR. VIKTOR & TERESA KOSTOV VISIT CPC of HOLLYWOOD

On Sunday, January 8, 2023, Dr. Viktor and Teresa Kostov with their son Noah visited CPC of Hollywood from Bulgaria.

The Kostovs have three sons: Daniel (26) is in California attending PCC, Mattias (25) graduated from St. Olaf in Minnesota and is now working there, and the youngest Noah (17) worships and plays guitar in a band. He also teaches a Sunday School class. He plays Christian music in villages and passes out bibles. Noah wants to go to a Minnesota university and study Computer Science. He is interested in Japanese Language.

Pastor Viktor leads their church as minister. He is a lawyer and involved in religious freedom cases. He is so happy for some victories in the European Court where they won a case for religious freedoms with a vote of 7-0. Viktor travels and works with other churches on religious freedoms. Teresa is the loyal supporter but does so much more. She also teaches and leads the women in worship and bible studies.

When some Ukrainian refugees were looking for help Viktor and Teresa offered to give aid to them with personal items, food, but mostly support and encouragement. Teresa thanked our church for financial gifts that went toward their Ukraine project. She said the Ukrainians were very thankful for the help they got. I just want to say it was the love of Jesus Christ through our church that helped them in their time of need.



Learn more about Viktor's cases for religious freedom in the Supreme Court of Bulgaria from his web site: www.kmission.org.

FINANCIAL REPORT DECEMBER 2022

	DEC. 2022	YTD
Receipts	\$ 35,640	\$ 170,046
Disbursements	\$ 14,144	\$ 153,605
Increase (Deficit)	\$ 21,495	\$ 16,441

The Session and I would like to thank the CPC community for your incredible support this past year. We finished the year with a surplus! We continue to give 10% of non-designated donations to Missions. Our support of the Kenya REAL feeding ministry allows them to feed over 250 kids, twice a day, in the slums of Nairobi. The number of children being fed has grown as the price of corn has increased making it hard for families to feed everybody. So, again thank you!

Pastor Steve and the Session



**SUNDAYS
at 11:00 A.M.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySIBjL1VtUmhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031 • Password: 351955

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,384758031# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)



Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; (Philippians 1:3-6)

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING:

- Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) as a people of God have entered their 100th year of community. **"A people called out to worship our Lord Jesus Christ and to witness to HIS Love for the world."** There has been 100 years of continuous prayer for the saints near and far from CPC. And a crying out for GOD's grace and mercy for those who are not yet saints.

- We are thankful! that "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence..." (Ephesian 1:7-8)

- Pastor Steve and Simone give thanks that granddaughter Alice's UC (Ulcerative Colitis) has been in recorded remission since 9/16/2022! Praying the remission will last a year as evidence of complete healing and restoration of the digestive system, UC.

- We all are thankful for provision for another year both monetary and relationally. GOD's goodness and grace has, as always, been abundant.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING:

In 2023 we experience grief as we mourn our

sense of lose for those who have died in 2022.

"¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen [a] asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who [b]sleep in Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

- Mary Tran's father died January 10, 2023. Please pray for Mary to have the wisdom and strength as well as courage to navigate all the family implications.

FOR THOSE WHO NEED IMMEDIATE PRAYER FOR HEALING:

- Sueko, had a fall causing a small brain bleed. She is stable. Please pray for the repair of the brain and compete renewed strength.

- Brian, has started a new round of chemotherapy. Please pray for the repair of all areas and the strength to tolerate the chemo.

- Jack, Susan's husband, is on oxygen. Please pray for the repair of his lungs and complete renewed strength.

- Irene, in caring for her mother Harumi, is vulnerable to twisted back and ankles. Please pray for repair and strength for each day.

- Many in our community are having to

endure covid, flus, and colds. Please pray that we receive the repair we need and the strengthening of our immunity against further assault.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOME BOUND OR IN A CARE FACILITY:

Teresa Peterek (in extended care. Asked for pastoral care.) Leland Hayashi, Joan Janecek, Barbara Kashiwagi, Kimi Fujitani, Karen Koranye, Frank Morimoto, Janet Nozaki, Jean Sakai, Irene Mayeda caring for her mother Harumi.

May each one daily know the comfort and care of our Lord Jesus. And may they each be filled with hope and strength needed for each day.

GENERAL:

- Denise, Brian's wife, please pray for wisdom for how to best to be an advocate for Brian in this season of Chemo. For courage that comes from trusting in our Father in Heaven. For strength that comes with the hope that Holy Spirit provides.

- Will, Pastor Steve's and Simone's dear friend, is unemployed for standing against wrong practices. Please pray for a secure, permanent job that allows him to provide for his family and to have work/life balance.

- Alison, Young Life Area Coordinator, is responsible for programming and fundraising. Please pray for wisdom, strength, and guidance.

- Matty, Alison's Young Life assistant, has a part time job with Helen Bernstein High School

as an aide. Please pray for him favor with the kids, and administration. Pray for wisdom and discernment for speaking "life" to the kids. (Specific words, timing for those words, and tone of the words.)

- Kristi and Bob Rice and our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in Sudan and South Sudan, who are advocating, by the power of the Holy Spirit, for reconciliation between warring tribes. Pray for wisdom, strength and courage to persevere in their witness of the healing, life, and hope, we have in Christ Jesus.

- The Kostov family is traveling through California, connecting with their supporters of which we are one. Please pray for Teresa and her mother Maria. Maria is on hospice. Please pray for Noah who is finishing up high school and is applying to colleges in Minnesota. And of course, remember to pray for Viktor and his legal work that is mostly pro-bono and often for freedom from persecution because of one's Christian faith.

MISSIONS FOCUS:

- With our support, the Kenya REAL Ministries feed over 250 kids twice a day. There is a food shortage and the cost of food has skyrocketed.

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:2)
(January 2023)

How can we pray for you?

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



We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting our ministry.

Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

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

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD



**SUNDAYS at 11:00 A.M.
IN-PERSON OR ON ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySjBjL1VkUmhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031
Password: 351955
One tap mobile
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+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)

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

DATED MATERIAL

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