

The Parish Visitor

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

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4011 Clinton St., Los Angeles, CA 90004-2298

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JULY 2019

While We Wait

your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY

This month and next month, we will be talking about the blessed event of 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 (var. texts) Originally Given on June 30, 2019 at CPC

Introduction: One amazing day, the Lord Jesus Christ is coming back. This is our glorious hope. Amen!

Last week, we looked at Acts 1:8 where we are told that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon us. The next three verses, in Acts, chapter one, tell us of Jesus' ascension and his return.

Acts 1:9-11 says this. *"And when he [Jesus] had said these things [we would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us], as they [the disciples] were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'"* (Acts 1:9-11, ESV)

The resurrected Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven in a cloud of God's manifest glory. And the angels present at his ascension



tell the disciples that our Lord Jesus will come back in the same way. Our Lord Jesus, when he comes back, will descend in a cloud of God's glory.

So today, the Holy Spirit has put it on my heart to talk about the blessed event of the Lord's Second Coming.

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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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We celebrate the Second arrival: The Lord's Second Coming is a cosmic event we often overlook, even though we are called to remember it every Advent season. Advent signifies the arrival, or appearance of a person, or event. And, so, every Christmas, we remember and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yet, there is another appearing of our Lord which we are to remember and celebrate. We are also called to celebrate the second appearing, or the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We remember, and celebrate, the second coming of Jesus Christ because the anticipation of our Lord's Second Coming gives us great hope; it brings us wonderful comfort, especially as we think of those who have gone on before us.

We miss our family and friends who have died, don't we? And we long to be re-united with them. This happens when Jesus Christ returns. So, understanding the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is a source of hope and encouragement.

We are going to look at the Lord's return as portrayed in the book of 1 Thessalonians. And, as we do, I ask the Holy Spirit to release hope, to release comfort, and to release encouragement.

The Lord's Return brings hope: Let's turn to 1 Thessalonians. I'm going to begin with 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 13-14.

Concerning the Second Coming, Paul writes, *"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]."*

Our God is so gracious. God does not want those who follow Jesus to grieve as those who have no hope. Yes, we do 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, we have the assurance that those who died, believing in Jesus, are with God. Let me say that again. Our family and friends who died, believing in Jesus, all

our brothers and sisters who died in Christ, are with God.

And here is the wonderful, encouraging news. These verses tell us Jesus is bringing them all with him when he returns. Amen! What a grand reunion that is going to be. This is our living hope. This is why we do not grieve as those who have no hope. We will see our brothers and sisters in Christ again.

First, the Lord Jesus descends: And then, so that we are not uninformed, Paul gives the order of events that will happen when Jesus Christ returns.

Verses 15-18 say, *"For this we declare to 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 4:15-18, ESV)

So, by a word from the Lord, Paul gives us the order of the great events of Jesus Christ's return. This is thrilling stuff!

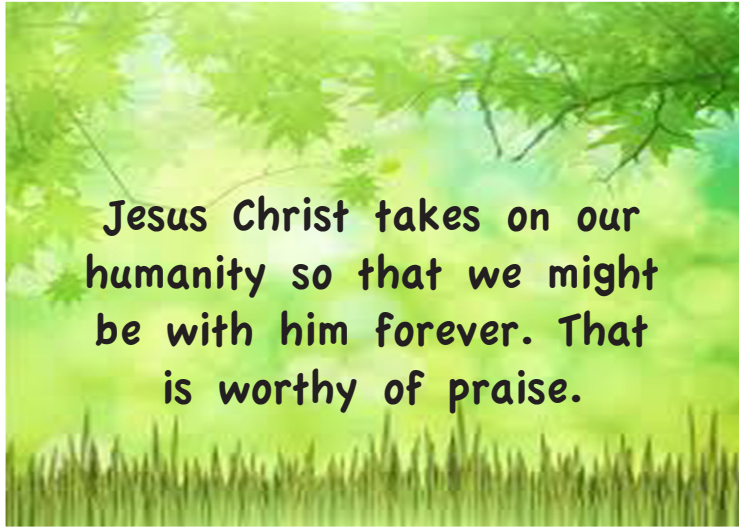
Today, we only have time to look at the first event. And it is a biggie because everything else depends on it. The first event is this. The Lord Jesus, himself, descends from heaven. The Lord Jesus, himself, returns.

And regarding Jesus' return, these verses tell us Jesus Christ's return will be personal; it will be visible, and it will be audible.

So, Jesus Christ's Second Coming will be personal. Verse 16 says, *"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven."* The Second Coming begins with Jesus Christ, himself, descending from heaven. Just like the angels promised us in Acts, chapter one. The Lord Jesus is personally returning.



your pastor writes ...Continued from Page 2



And, he is returning in his human body. Yes, Jesus Christ is fully God. Yet, the miracle of Christmas is God, himself, is born in a human body. God, the Son, becomes fully human as well as fully God. And, Jesus has this human body for all eternity. This is how much Jesus has bound himself to us. Jesus took on our human nature for eternity.

So, Jesus was born in a human body; he lived out his life in his human body; he died in his human body; he was raised in his human body; and he ascended in his human body. And, when the Lord Jesus comes back, he will descend in his human body.

Just take a moment to praise Jesus Christ for this. Jesus Christ takes on our humanity in order to redeem our humanity. Jesus Christ takes on our humanity so that we might be with him forever. That is worthy of praise. Amen! So, Jesus' return will be personal.

Next, Jesus Christ's Second Coming will be visible. In Acts, chapter 1, the Lord Jesus ascended in a cloud of God's glory seen only by his disciples and a couple of angels. At his Second Coming, the whole world will see the Lord Jesus descending.

According to Acts, chapter one, the Lord Jesus will descend in the same way he ascended, in a cloud of God's manifest glory. And his return ushers in the new heaven and the new earth.

Rev. 21:1 says this about Jesus' Second Coming. *"Then I [the Apostle John] saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more."* (Revelation 21:1, ESV)

When the Lord Jesus returns, our current heaven and earth will pass away, and the new heaven and the new earth will appear. The Lord Jesus' return will restore all creation and the whole world will see it.

So, the Lord's Jesus Second Coming will be personal and it will be visible. And I don't know about you, but I long for the new creation. No more sin, no more sorrow; no more pain. Our glorious hope!

And, finally, Jesus Christ's Second Coming will be audible. The first time, Jesus came as a babe born in an out of the way stable. Yes, there was a heavenly chorus, but, again, it was witnessed by only a few. This time our text says the Lord Jesus will descend with a cry of

command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God!

Notice the three different sounds the whole world will hear. First, the Lord Jesus Christ will give a cry of command. Then, the voice of an archangel will join the chorus. And third, the trumpet of God, the shofar, will blow and announce King Jesus' arrival.

The sense, here, is when he descends, the Lord Jesus' voice, a voice full of power and authority, will shatter the atmosphere, as Jesus commands all creation to come under his rule, and as he commands the new heavens and the new earth to come into being.

The bottom line is this. Jesus Christ's Second Coming will be unmistakable. It will be personal, it will be visible and it will be audible. The whole world will be shockingly aware of Jesus' return.

The time for choice is over: And let's understand this. When the Lord Jesus returns, the time for choosing him is over. Anyone who has not chosen him will face the great White Throne judgment in Revelation, chapter 20.

Rev. 20:12 says, *"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done."* (Revelation 20:12, ESV)

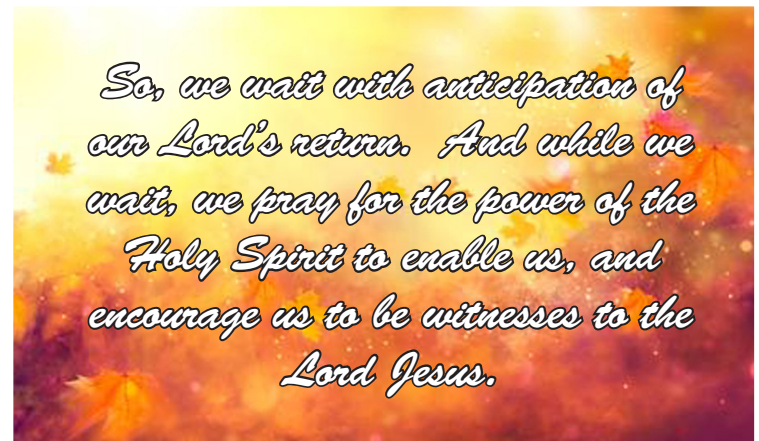
So, those not in Jesus Christ will be judged according to what they have done, not according to what Jesus has done for them. And none, outside of Christ will stand.

This should impress on us the need to pray for the salvation of loved ones and friends and coworkers. The Father promised us power to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. This is power for prayer, and testimony and witnessing.

So, we wait with anticipation of our Lord's return. And while we wait, we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us, and encourage us to be witnesses to the Lord Jesus. This is probably the single most important thing we can do while we wait. Amen!

See you next month,

Pastor Steve



A fond farewell to Lucille

"...He has put eternity into man's heart...."

---Ecclesiastes 3:11b – ESV

* * *

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, [a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."---John 3:16 – ESV

On Friday, 7/26/19, family and friends gathered at Rose Hills Memorial Park to bid their final farewells to Lucille Nakahara, who passed away on 7/13 in Los Angeles. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Nakahara, who passed away in 1987. Lucille is survived by younger brother, Jim, and younger sister, Frances, along with nieces and nephew Laura, Leilani, and Dale. The officiant at the graveside service was Pastor Steve Baroldy of Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood.

Lucille was a long-time resident of the Virgil Ave. neighborhood. Her parents, Toichi and Hatsu Matsuoka, were originally from Hiroshima Ken, Japan.

During the WWII years, the Matsuoka family relocated to Manzanar Relocation Center in Owens Valley.

Lucille enjoyed riding the bus to Little Tokyo for the Koreisha Lunch Program, the Japanese AARP monthly meetings, the NCCR meetings and visiting her good friend Hannah Low.

Lucille joined Hollywood Independent Church of Hollywood Church on September 24, 1995, when Rev. Stephenson Leong was the pastor of the Church. She attended Hollywood Independent Church of Hollywood for many years until the church closed its doors in July of 2015. She then became a regular and faithful attendee at Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood.

Lucille's nieces and nephews recalled growing up in the Sunday school of Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood.

Lucille was a nurse's aid and worked at Good Samaritan Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, and more recently the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles for a 30-year career.

We shall miss her warm and cheerful presence -- her down-to-earth and generous nature. Our deepest condolences are extended to the family. May God be ever close to each one of them.



from our mailbox

Responding to Pastor Steve's sermon on the "Kingdom of God", we received the following email:

Pastor Steve,

Thank you for sharing a complicated passage. I never heard a sermon on this passage. I believe Jesus knew the answer to his question before he even asked the question.

And of course, Peter is always trying to protect and answer for Jesus, bless his heart. I believe Jesus wanted the woman to respond and come forward of her own free will. Jesus truly loves her unconditionally and breaking the bond of works and legalism. I pray this sermon will help those inflicted by chronic illness and heartache, we as believers are heading toward heaven.

In Christ's love,
Marc Takeshita

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.

Correction

(In the January 2019 issue of the Parish Visitor Newsletter, we published an article in memory of Ted Harada and in celebration of his life. The following are corrections, provided by Bruce Uyemura, on some information in the published article. We apologize for the unintentional errors in the originally published article.- PV)

There were some corrections in the January, 2019 issue of the Parish Visitor that needed to be corrected.

Easter Sunday, April 25, 1954 – Ted Harada was received into membership of the church through Letter of Transfer. The Rev. Fitzhugh Dodson, minister to the Nisei Congregation, received all of the new members at that time.

January, 1955 – Ted Harada was ordained as elder to serve on Session. He completed many three-year terms as elder during the following years.

Easter Sunday, April 10, 1955 – Masako (Mako) Harada was received into church membership through Baptism, by the Rev. Arthur Wittenberger, preacher to the Nisei Congregation.

Ted and Mako Harada were presidents of the Married Peoples Fellowship (MPF) in 1960. Ted and Mako were active in MPF from 1957 to about 1961. MPF couples and families participated in many Fellowship gatherings at church.

Ted served on the building committee for the present Sanctuary, Social Hall, and Manse back in 1955 and 1956. Ted also served on the building committee for the new Christian Education unit of large conference room, men's and women's restroom, and five classrooms from 2001 to 2003 from initial planning to final construction of the C.E. wing.

CPC

RUMMAGE sale

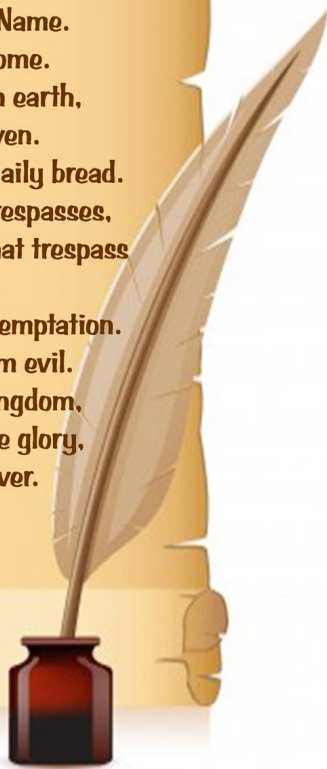


Christ Presbyterian Church is hosting RUMMAGE SALES every last Sunday of the month. The sale is held from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Church Community Hall throughout the summer months. Clothing, shoes, accessories, housewares, books, collectibles, gift items, school supplies, toys and many other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

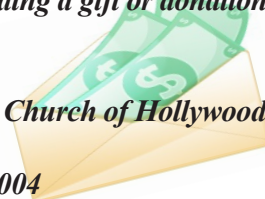


| | <u>JULY 2019</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|------------|
| Receipts | \$ 9,342 | \$ 92,491 |
| Disbursements | \$ 16,524 | \$ 93,106 |
| Increase (Deficit) | (\$ 7,182) | (\$ 615) |

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.



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

Sermon Tape Orders. The sermons are being taped each Sunday. If you would like a copy of any message, please see Jimi Yamagishi. For each tape purchased, please put \$1.50 in the offering plate.

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

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