

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

July 2020
VOL. LXXIV NO. 7

The PROMISE of POWER



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!*
There is a lot going on right now, between the continuing effects of the pandemic and the nationwide protests.

I pray this message helps us remember that we are not without a powerful resource during this time.

The Promise of Power, *Acts chapters 1-2*, originally given on June 9, 2019, at CPC

Introduction: The Promise: I love the Holy Spirit. And, I love talking about the Holy Spirit. And since today is Pentecost, it gives me a built-in opportunity to talk about the wonderful person of God, the Holy Spirit.

Now, what is Pentecost? Pentecost is the day the church universal remembers and celebrates the Holy Spirit falling on Jesus' disciples after Jesus' ascension into heaven. This is chronicled in the Book of Acts, chapters 1 and 2.

Let's begin in Acts 1:3-5. *"He [Jesus] presented himself alive to them [the apostles] after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.""* (Acts 1:3-5, ESV)

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With the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, CPC remains closed to safeguard the health of its members and congregants. We are now holding a virtual worship Service every Sunday at 11:00am, using Zoom. Service ends around 12:30pm.

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

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



your pastor writes ... Continued from Page 1

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8, ESV)

So, here, we are post resurrection. And, the now resurrected and glorified Jesus Christ is appearing to his apostles and speaking to them about the kingdom of God.

Jesus orders his disciples to stay in Jerusalem and to *"wait for the promise of the Father."* So, this promise of the Father is linked to the kingdom of God. The kingdom and the promise go together. In fact, this promise is a vital component of the kingdom of God.

What is the promise of the Father? Jesus declares, *"for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."* The Father's promise is Jesus' disciples will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Now, think about this image for a moment. When Jesus says, *"John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit,"* what image comes to mind? How did John baptize?

John baptizes through complete immersion in water, right? So, the image presented by the words *"baptized with the Holy Spirit."* is this. Jesus' disciples will be completely immersed in, or completely encompassed with, the Holy Spirit.

So, we are not talking about a little sprinkling of the Holy Spirit. We are talking about being dunked in the Holy Spirit. We are talking about an abundance of the Holy Spirit coming upon us and soaking us.

This is the Father's promise. We, as Jesus' disciples, will have a flood of the Holy Spirit come upon us. And this baptism of the Holy Spirit is a vital part of the kingdom of

God on earth. Doesn't this sound like a promise we want for our lives?

The promise of power: Now, why is it important for Jesus' disciples to be baptized with the Holy Spirit? Jesus tells us in Acts 1:8.

Right before Jesus ascends into heaven, he tells his disciples this in Acts 1:8. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* (Acts 1:8, ESV)

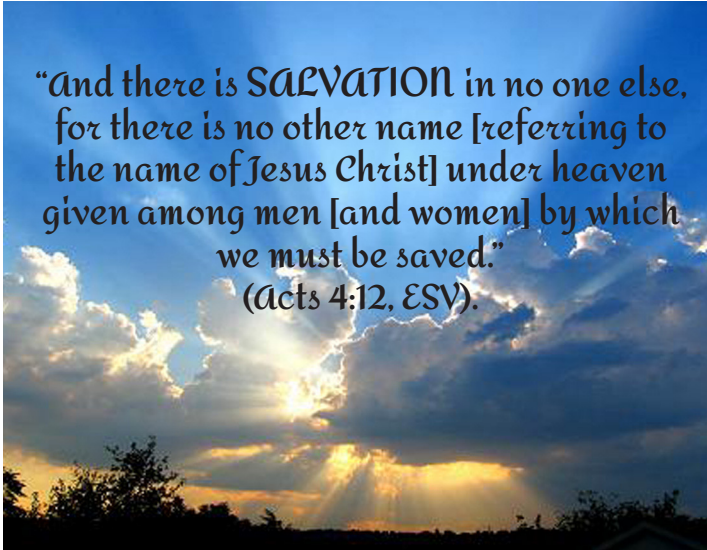
Jesus says, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."* So, what is this promise about? This promise is about power. This promise is about having the ability to be witnesses for Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God.

And, please understand, this is no ordinary power. This is not human power. This is God's power.

In the original language, the word translated "power" is "dunamis." We get our English word "dynamite" from this same word. This is explosive power. This is life changing power. This is power to change the world around us.

This is power that allows Jesus' disciples to not only powerfully proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. This is power that allows Jesus' disciples to demonstrate the good news of the kingdom of God.

Demonstrate how? By doing the same things Jesus did. We are empowered to pray with wisdom and understanding; we are empowered to pray for salvation; we are empowered



**“And there is SALVATION in no one else, for there is no other name [referring to the name of Jesus Christ] under heaven given among men [and women] by which we must be saved.”
(Acts 4:12, ESV).**

to pray for healing and deliverance. We are empowered to pray that things on earth will be as they are in heaven.

And, here, we remember that the Holy Spirit coming upon us for power is different than the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit happens when we receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

When we confess Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. This indwelling of the Spirit marks us as one of God’s own. In addition, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit develops the **character** of Jesus Christ in us. This character comes from the Holy Spirit producing the fruit of the Spirit in us.

And, a last important point, this indwelling of the Holy Spirit is permanent. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit will never leave us.

On the other hand, the Holy Spirit coming upon us is for power so we can do the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit coming upon us can happen again, and again, as needed for the current situation.

As the Spirit comes upon us, we are empowered to testify about Jesus, to heal, to deliver, to prophesy, or anything else the Spirit wants us to do at a particular time and for a particular purpose.

So, the Spirit within produces the character of Jesus Christ in us. The Spirit upon gives us the power to do the ministry of Jesus Christ. We will avoid much confusion if we will remember these two works of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit’s work within and work upon.

The Promise Fulfilled: We, then, see the promise of the Father fulfilled in Acts chapter 2:1-4. *“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in*

one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4, ESV)

Let’s take note of three things. First, notice that the tongues of fire rested on each of the disciples. None were excluded. The Father’s promise of empowerment is for all disciples, including us.

Second, notice also that the Holy Spirit “resting” on the disciples results in the disciples being “filled” with the Holy Spirit.

And finally, notice the gift of empowerment. The disciples were enabled to speak in languages they had not learned. And we will come back to this in a moment.

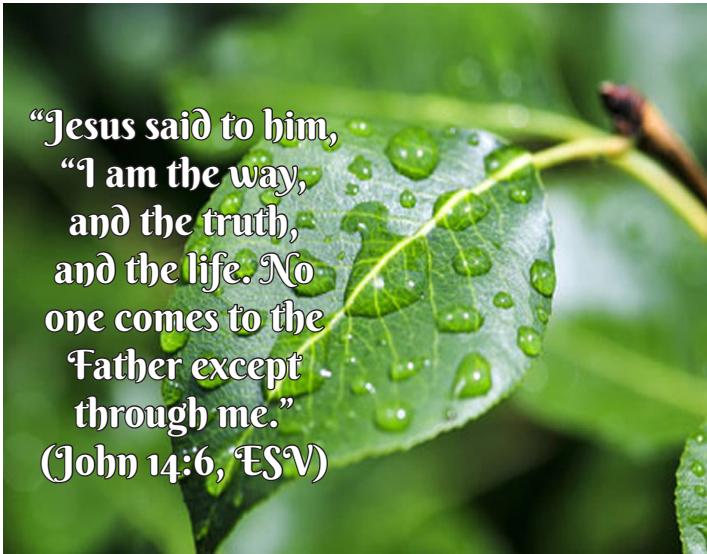
Again, let me stress this. The baptism of the Holy Spirit, this empowerment of the Holy Spirit, is for all disciples. It is for us. It is a vital part of being in the kingdom of God. Amen!

The empowerment can happen again and again:

And, as I said before, this filling, this empowerment, can happen again and again. For instance, the Apostle Peter was present in Acts, chapter two, when the Holy Spirit came and filled the disciples.

Yet, then, in Acts 4:8, we are told, *“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders,” (ACTS 4:8, ESV)* Peter, filled afresh

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**“Jesus said to him,
“I am the way,
and the truth,
and the life. No
one comes to the
Father except
through me.”
(John 14:6, ESV)**

with the Holy Spirit, goes on to preach to the Jewish leadership. Peter, freshly filled, is empowered to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

The point is this. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts, chapter 2, and, then, he is filled again, here, in Acts, chapter 4. This illustrates that we have this active, ongoing, dynamic relationship with the Holy Spirit. We can be filled again and again and we should be asking to be filled again and again.

Side note: Now, I want to give a quick side note. Peter finishes his message in Acts, chapter 4, with this powerful proclamation in Acts 4:12. In Acts 4:12, Peter says, *“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name [referring to the name of Jesus Christ] under heaven given among men [and women] by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12, ESV).

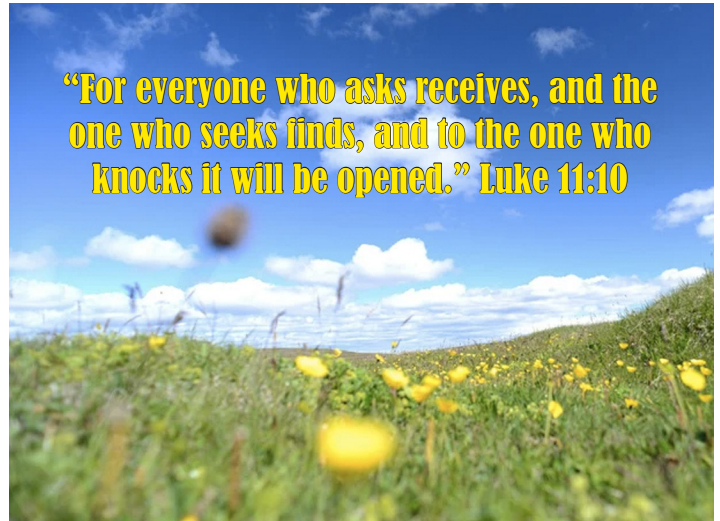
This is one of those verses that trouble people. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, declares, *“And there is salvation in no one else [meaning in no one else other than Jesus Christ].”*

People struggle with the absoluteness of this verse. Yet, John 14:6, also declares this absoluteness. John 14:6 reads, *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”* (John 14:6, ESV)

It is pretty clear, from God’s word, and from Jesus’ own mouth, that Jesus Christ is the only way to come into right relationship with God the Father. We don’t have to like this truth, or understand it, yet that is what God’s word proclaims. And that is where we must stand. Amen!

The empowerment illustrated: Now, we see the empowerment of the Holy Spirit illustrated later in Acts, 2:5-8, 11. *“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them [the disciples] speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.’”* (Acts 2:5–8, 11, ESV)

Here, the disciples proclaim “the mighty works of God” to the gathered pilgrims in the pilgrim’s own language.



Understand, the disciples did not learn this language. This ability to speak in unknown languages was a gift of the Holy Spirit. It was given to empower the disciples to be witnesses for God, and his Son Jesus Christ. Isn’t that incredible? Isn’t it amazing to see the lengths to which God will go to bring people to faith in Jesus.

Prayer: So, the Father gives us a promise of power. Power to do the ministry of Jesus Christ. This promise of power is for all disciples. So, I want to pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon us once again.

Luke 11:10-13 says, *“For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”* (Luke 11:10–13, ESV)

So, readers of the Parish Visitor, pray and ask. “Heavenly Father, I thank you for this promise of power. I need it. I pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon me and empower me to be a witness to the wholeness of life offered in Jesus Christ. Father, you have promised this gift, and I ask for it. And, in agreement with your word, I believe I have received it. In Jesus name. Amen!

Now, look for opportunities to us this empowerment.

See you next month,
Pastor Steve



- Learn how to tell the difference between a real contact tracer and a scammer. Legitimate tracers need health information, not money or personal financial information.
- Don't respond to texts, emails or calls about checks from the government.
- Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.
- Be wary of ads for test kits. Most test kits being advertised have not been approved by the FDA, and aren't necessarily accurate.
- Hang up on robocalls. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from low-priced health insurance to work-at-home schemes.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the CDC or WHO. Use sites like coronavirus.gov and usa.gov/coronavirus to get the latest information. And don't click on links from sources you don't know.
- Do your homework when it comes to donations. Never donate in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money.

LA County Road to Recovery

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF COVID-19 OUTSIDE THE HOME

CHOOSE WISELY - AVOID THE THREE C'S

- **CONFINED SPACES** - especially with poor ventilation. Outdoors is better than indoors.
- **CROWDS** - the more people the higher the risk.
- **CLOSE CONTACT** - staying further apart is safer than being close together.

THE MORE C'S, THE HIGHER THE RISK!!

TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Wash your hands often
- Wear a cloth face covering around others
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid sharing food, drinks, toys, sports equipment
- Avoid or clean surfaces that are touched by others
- Increase ventilation - go outside, open windows
- Keep interactions with others short
- Give yourself space from others

PLAN AHEAD

- Stay informed - check online or call and ask about safety measures before going to a restaurant, place of worship, salon or gym
- Be flexible - be willing to change activities to avoid the three C's

For more information, visit: publichealth.lacounty.gov/coronavirus
Revised: 6/12/20

Gift & Offering

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ur campus may be temporarily shut, but 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. 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

FINANCIAL REPORT

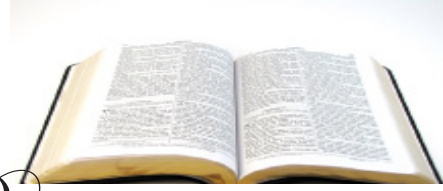
JUNE 2020

	JUNE 2020	YTD
Receipts	\$ 3,192	\$ 52,114
Disbursements	\$ 8,053	\$ 65,012
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 4,861)	(\$ 12,896)

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.

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.

"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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the Parish Visitor
Published by
Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
4011 Clinton St.
Los Angeles, CA 90004-2298
(323) 665-3581

