

The Parish VISITOR



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

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
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The REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY, Pastor

cpchollywood.org

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Staying ANCHORED in the Storm



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 stay anchored through all the chaos.

Staying Anchored in the Storm
(Psalm 103:1-5) originally given on Oct 6 2019, at CPC

Introduction: Anchored in the storm: Simone and I went to visit family members in Arizona last week as part of our vacation. Several members of my family are going through storms right now, so it was good to be with them.

And, I know many of our church

members and/or their families are going through storms at this moment. I am reminded we all go through storms. Health storms; financial storms; emotional storms; relationship storms. Storms caused when a loved one passes. Sometimes we experience several storms at once, don't we? So, how do we anchor ourselves in the storms of life? How do we keep from getting blown away?

As I was preparing this message, the Holy Spirit brought to mind a prayer time I had with Dr. Viktor Kostov several years ago. Viktor is a missionary from Bulgaria our church supports. At the time, I was going through my own health storm with severe pain in several parts of my body.

As we prayed, the Holy Spirit gave

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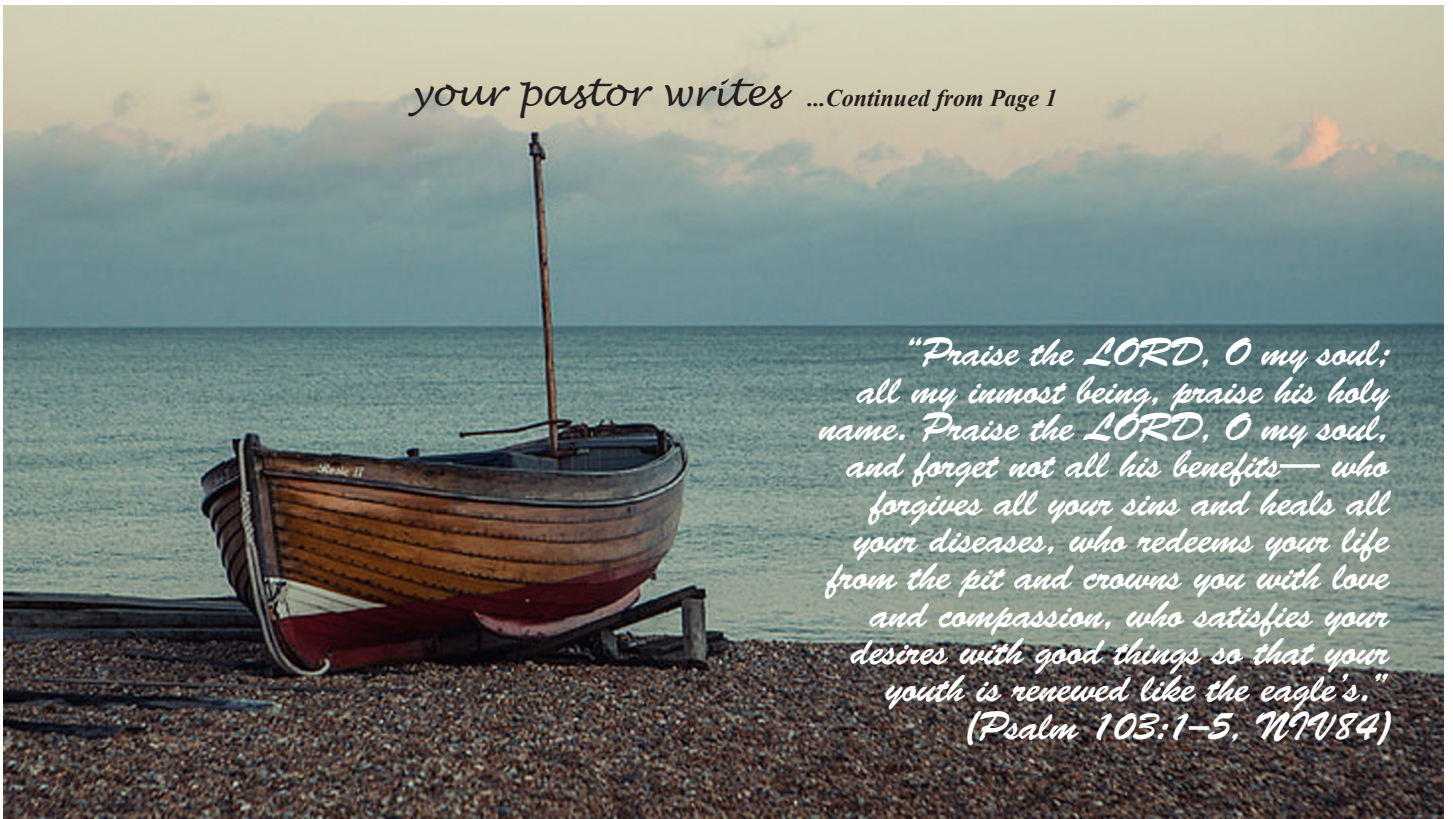
UPDATE on CPC Virtual Sunday Services

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



*"Praise the LORD, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy
name. Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits— who
forgives all your sins and heals all
your diseases, who redeems your life
from the pit and crowns you with love
and compassion, who satisfies your
desires with good things so that your
youth is renewed like the eagle's."
(Psalm 103:1-5, NIV84)*

Viktor an image which I think is helpful for us this morning. Viktor saw me on a boat, and there was a gigantic storm raging all around. Hurricane force winds; massive crashing waves. The boat was being tossed around like cork on the water.

In the midst of the maelstrom, Viktor saw me with a thick rope tied around my waist. And the rope was tied to the mast of the boat. And, so, anchored to the mast, I was off the deck, and literally flying through the storm. I was securely anchored, and the storm could not sweep away.

Viktor told me he believed the mast was Jesus Christ and the rope was Jesus' love for me. No storm can move Jesus. And I was anchored to the unmovable Jesus Christ by his love, and by my faith.

How do we ride out the storms? We stay anchored to God through Jesus Christ. We stay anchored by remembering God's love for us. We stay anchored by remembering God's promises to us. We stay anchored by understanding God's will for us.

This is why scripture is so important. Scripture reveals God's love for us. Scripture details God's promises to us. Scripture tells us God's will for us. And, we find all of these wonderful truths in the opening verses of Psalm 103.

We are anchored by God's presence: Psalm 103:1-5 reads, *"Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life*

from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." (Psalm 103:1-5, NIV84)

Psalm 103 was written by King David in the latter years of his life. A life spent anchored in God's presence. Did you notice all the "who's in these verses?

The Lord "who" forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases. The Lord "who" redeems our life from the pit. The Lord "who" crowns us with love and compassion, and so on.

King David spent so much time in God's presence he knew God as a person. He knew God on a personal level. King David knew, he knew experientially, God was with him through all the ups and downs of his life.

By the time King David wrote this magnificent psalm, he had committed great sin and received greater pardon from God. King David has experienced great victory and crushing defeat. He has lived with wonderful friendship and agonizing betrayal. And, through it all, King David is anchored by God's wonderful presence. King David's heart is full of gratitude for his LORD.

So, in this Psalm, King David praises the Lord for all the marvelous benefits he has seen the Lord bestow on him and on his people. Likewise, this psalm is a call for us to continually remind ourselves that these benefits show us God's heart for us. These verses reveal truth that allows us to stay anchored in the Lord through every storm.



Praise anchors us to God: King David begins Psalm 103, *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!”*

Let me ask? Do you ever talk to yourself? Do people make fun of you for talking to yourself? Next time, tell them that talking to yourself is biblical.

Here, King David, is talking to himself. King David is commanding himself to bless the Lord with all that is within him, to bless the Lord with his entire being. King David has learned that praise anchors him to his Lord. Praise centers him emotionally.

If we are in a storm, and we find ourselves being tossed about emotionally, follow King David’s example. Begin blessing the Lord. Tell the Lord you love him and trust him. Thank him for all he has done for you in the past. Quote this first verse until your spirit settles.

So, King David begins this psalm by blessing the Lord.

Remembering God’s benefits anchors us to God: King David continues in verse 2, *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”* Here, King David tells himself not only to bless the Lord, but to *“forget not”* all the benefits that come from having a close, personal relationship with the Lord.

Again, we all need this reminder, don’t we? When going through a storm, we can get down, or depressed, or anxious, or even angry. And, in the moment, we tend to forget all the things the Lord has done for us in the past. We tend to forget all the promises the LORD has made to us.

Remembering these promises, remembering these benefits; and even more, proclaiming these promises and benefits, keeps us anchored to our Lord. It keeps the enemy from getting into our heads with his lies. The enemy will try

to put fear, anxiety and doubt on us when the storm is raging. Remembering God’s promises, proclaiming his benefits out loud stops the enemy cold. Amen!

The Benefit of Forgiveness: And so, that is what David does in verse 3. David begins to list the benefits we have when we know the Lord; when we know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

David writes, *[the Lord] who forgives all our sins.* The first benefit is this. The Lord *“forgives all our sins.”* All our sins. In Jesus Christ, all of our sins are forgiven. There is not one sin that is not forgiven. And in Psalm 103:12 we are told, *“as far as the east is from the west, so far does he [the LORD] remove our transgressions from us.”* (Psalm 103:12, ESV)

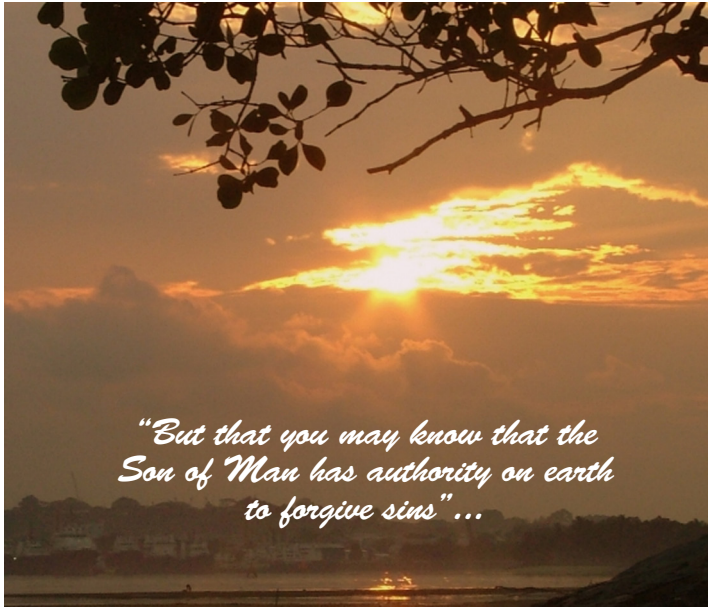
Now, how far is the east from the west? Infinity, right? The east never meets the west. This is telling us that when the LORD forgives our sins, he completely removes them. Through confession and repentance, all of our sins are completely removed in Jesus Christ. Isn’t that wonderful? Isn’t that encouraging? Isn’t that worth remembering?

So, don’t let the enemy beat you up over a sin that is forgiven and completely removed. Again, when we are in a storm, the enemy loves to remind us of past failures. But God wants us to remember that they are forgiven and completely removed.

In my view, forgiveness is the greatest miracle of all. Why? Because when our sins are forgiven, we can be in God’s

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presence. Not just now, for all eternity. And because our sins are forgiven, we can release all the guilt and shame that surrounds those sins.

God's forgiveness is a wonderful release that brings peace. Peace with God and the peace of God. So, the Lord forgives **all** our sins. And therefore, we can stay anchored to God.

The Benefit of Healing: Next, King David writes, "[the Lord] *who heals all your diseases.*" Heals **all** our diseases. One of the benefits of knowing the Lord is the Lord heals **all** of our diseases.

We have talked about this before. I believe the Lord can heal all our diseases now. Why that doesn't happen is a mystery. Yet, we keep believing and keep praying, Amen!

One day our bodies will be completely whole. That is an absolute, guaranteed promise. When Jesus Christ returns we will be made completely whole. Do you look forward to that? I know I do.

So, King David tells us that the Lord forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases. And we see a specific demonstration of this in Jesus' ministry.

Four friends bring a paralytic lying on a bed to Jesus. They are so certain Jesus can heal the paralytic they tear a hole in the roof of the house where Jesus is teaching the word of God, and they lower the paralytic in front of him. And the

first thing Jesus says to the paralytic is, "*Son, your sins are forgiven.*"

Of course this upsets the Jewish leaders who were there listening to Jesus teach. The gospel of Mark tells us they were questioning Jesus' actions in their hearts saying, "*who can forgive sins but God alone.*"

And, the text tells us Jesus knows they are questioning him in their hearts. So Jesus says, in Mark 2:9, "*Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?*"

Isn't that a brilliant question? It's easy to say "*your sins are forgiven*" because there is no visual proof that this has happened. But when Jesus says, "*Rise, take up your bed and walk,*" the paralytic better rise up and walk or else Jesus will be proven powerless. He will be proven a false Messiah.

Jesus goes on, "*But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins*"—he said to the paralytic— "*I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.*" And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "*We never saw anything like this!*" (Mark 2:9–12, ESV)

Here, Jesus is proving that he is the promised Messiah come to earth. Jesus shows he has the power to heal the paralytic which proves he is the Son of God and, therefore, also has the authority to forgive sins.

What is interesting is that the Jewish leaders knew Jesus could heal. They had seen him heal again and again. They were questioning his ability to forgive sins because they didn't yet believe he was God come in the flesh.

On the other hand, we know Jesus is God come in the flesh. We have no trouble believing Jesus can forgive our sins. Yet, we question in our hearts whether Jesus can heal, and whether Jesus wants to heal. God's word is pretty clear here, isn't it? [The Lord] *who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,*"

Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh and he promises to do both. So, if you are in a health storm, or any other storm, forget not all of God's benefits. Keep remembering; keep believing; keep proclaiming. Stay anchored to the one who brings us through every storm. Amen!

See you next month,

Pastor Steve

Fourth Generation Tajima Family Member Working in L.A. County Chief Executive Office

The fourth generation great grandson of the late, former pastor, the Rev. Kengo Tajima, is working as a principal analyst in the Census Unit in the County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office, according to a news item in *The Rafu Shimpō* on June 11.

Jason Tajima is the great grandson of the late Rev. Kengo Tajima, a former pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood from 1955 to 1957.

It was under Rev. Tajima's pastorate the present Sanctuary, Social Hall and Manse were constructed in 1956.

Many will remember during construction very large pier pilings were in the ground due to Church being built on a river bed along

Madison Avenue.

In 1955, also under the late Rev. Tajima's leadership, the name of the church was changed from Hollywood Japanese Presbyterian Church to Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood and/or Hollywood Christ Presbyterian Church in order to serve the neighborhood regardless of race.

The congregation voted to keep Hollywood in its name at the time because the church began by the late Rev. Tokujiro Horikoshi began at 1433 Tamarind Avenue in Hollywood.

The fourth generation Jason Tajima grew up in Altadena where his family attended the First Presbyterian Church of Altadena, a Japanese-American congregation. Jason's grandfather was the late Ted Tajima and son of the late

Rev. Tajima.

Ted Tajima was a journalism teacher at Alhambra High School for many years before his retirement.

In Jason's position with the County of Los Angeles he reported that U. S. Census workers resumed hand-delivering questionnaires to select households in Los Angeles and Riverside counties.

The late Rev. Kengo Tajima was a bilingual English- and Japanese-speaking pastor.

In the 1950's back issues of the *Parish Visitor*; Rev. Tajima gave weekly progress of the construction of the church buildings during 1955 until it was completed. This was when the *Parish Visitor* was a weekly publication of the church.

FINANCIAL REPORT

**MAY
2020**



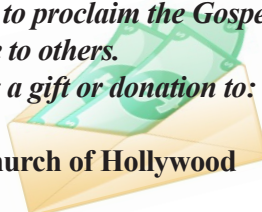
	<u>MAY 2020</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 6,073	\$ 48,922
Disbursements	\$ 8,895	\$ 56,958
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 2,822)	(\$ 8,034)

Gift & Offering

Please help us continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and give hope to others.

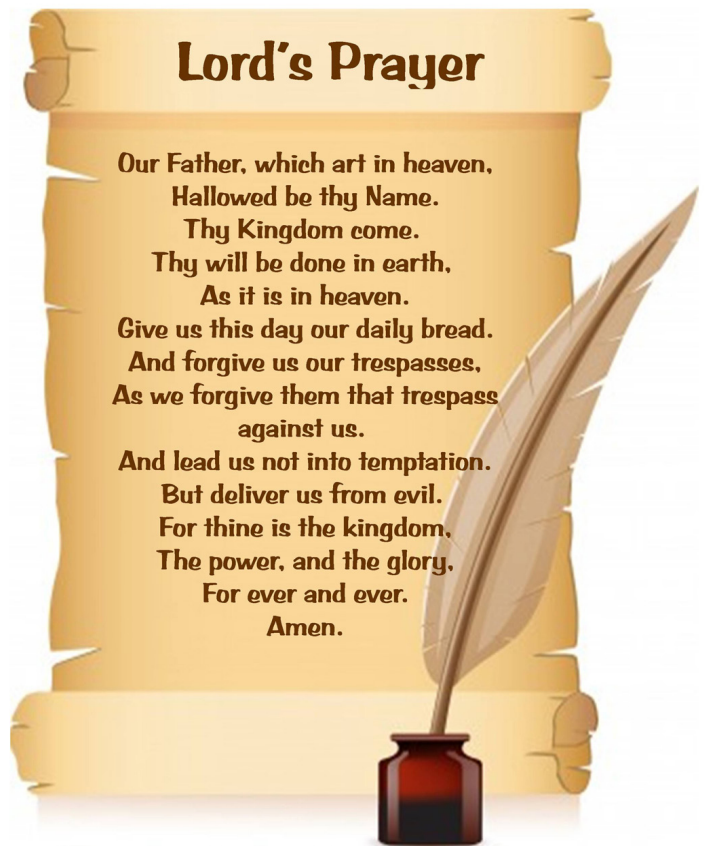
Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

**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.



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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