

# The Parish VISITOR



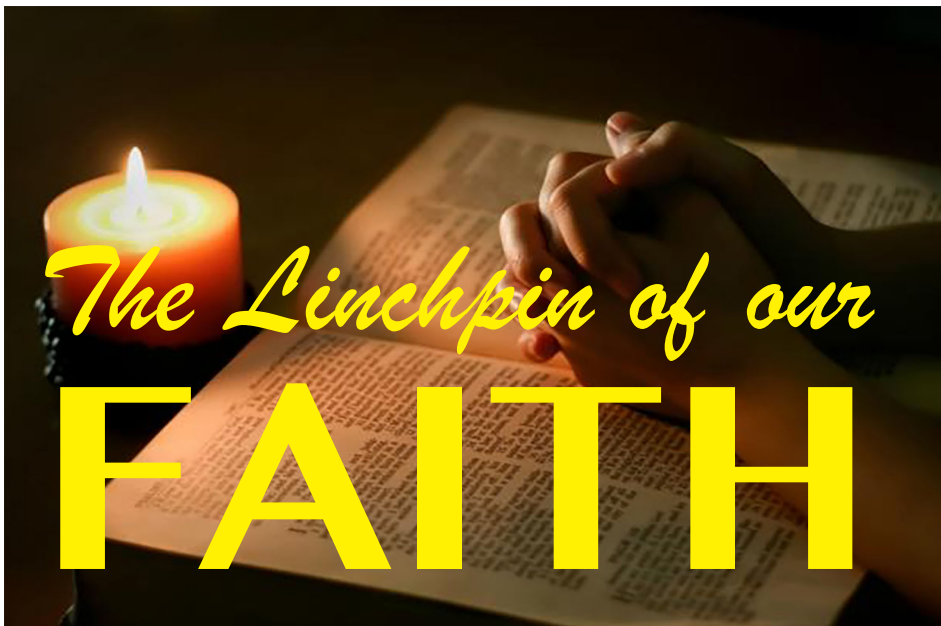
*"Be Transformed...By the renewing of your minds." - Romans 12:2 - NIV*

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood  
4011 Clinton St., Los Angeles, CA 90004-2298  
The REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY, Pastor

cpchollywood.org

March  
2021

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*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!*

We have a new recording system for our in-person worship service. Unfortunately, the recording of this year's Resurrection Sunday message had a glitch in it and we weren't able to post it on our website. Therefore, I am printing it in this month's **Parish Visitor**. I pray it will strengthen your faith.

**Resurrection:** *The Linchpin of our Faith, 1Cor. 15:1-8; 16-19 Originally given on April 4, 2021 at CPC*

**Introduction:**

**A Special Day:** It is so good to worship together in person. Amen! I feel so much joy that we are worshipping together after more than a year on Zoom.

And, there is another reason today is special for me. Seventeen years ago, on Resurrection Sunday, April 11, 2004, I of-

*Continued next page*



**Our doors are OPEN to welcome you back!**

**A**fter more than a year of being away from our campus, unable to worship together in person due to the pandemic, Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood re-opened for in-person worship services on April 4, Resurrection Sunday.

**What a joy to welcome you back in our Sanctuary!**

In addition to the in-person worship, we will 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.**

“For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.”  
(1 Corinthians 15:16–19, ESV)

ficiated my first worship service here at CPC. Seventeen years ago! It hard to believe, isn't it?

Seventeen years of life together with this wonderful congregation. So, first thing, I want to thank you all for the love and blessings you have poured out on me and my family these seventeen years. And, I feel very blessed, and very fortunate, that Christ Presbyterian Church will be my first and only pastoral call.

Today, I want to do the same thing I did seventeen years ago in my first message to you on Resurrection Sunday. And that is to declare the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Resurrection: The Linchpin of our Faith:** I have titled this message “Resurrection: The linchpin of our faith.” According to the dictionary on my iPhone, a linchpin is “something that holds the various elements of a complicated structure together.” The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is that something that holds all the elements of the gospel of Jesus Christ together. So, this morning we will offer proofs for the resurrection.

Now, before we talk about our text, we first need to understand the Apostle Paul is addressing the issue of the resurrection because Corinth was a Greek city. And the Greeks did not believe in resurrection.

In fact, when Paul preached about Jesus Christ's resurrection in Corinth during one of his missionary journeys, some of his listeners laughed at him. They mocked him because most Greek philosophers considered the body a prison. And they welcomed death as a deliverance from bondage to their physical body.<sup>1</sup>

And now, some years later, this skepticism about resurrection had invaded the church in Corinth. So, Paul feels the need to address resurrection in this letter to the Corinthian church.

Paul's teaching is just as important today because skepticism about the resurrection continues even to today. Even today, non-

believers mock our belief in the resurrection. Secularists know that if you take away the resurrection, our Christian faith falls apart.

Paul understood the importance of the resurrection to our faith. He tells us so in 1Cor. 15:16-19. Let me read those verses again. “For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” (1 Corinthians 15:16–19, ESV)

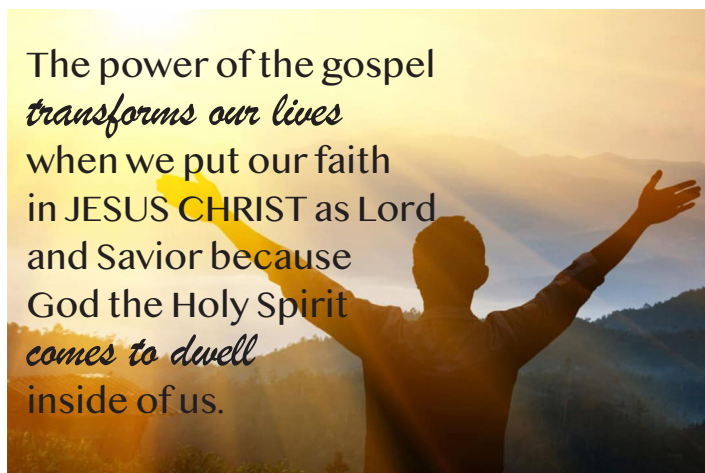
So, says Paul, if the resurrection is not true, then our faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ is futile, it is mere delusion. If the resurrection is not true, Paul says we are still in our sins. Why? Because if Jesus Christ is not raised, then he is not the Son of God, and there is no forgiveness of our sins through his substitutionary death on our behalf.

If the resurrection of Jesus Christ is not true, then, Paul says, there is no resurrection for his followers who have fallen asleep, or died, believing in Jesus for eternal life. If there is no resurrection, their hope for eternal life is futile, and they have perished. And, we will not see them again.

And finally, to sum it up, Paul says if there is no resurrection, then “we [believers] are of all people most to be pitied,” because we have put our hope in a fraud. And the hope of life after death does not exist.

There is no getting around it. Without the resurrection, there is no gospel of Jesus Christ. And, we would do just as well to believe in the Easter bunny this Resurrection Sunday.

Yet, this morning, we declare the good news that the resurrection is true. Amen! And Paul, in the first eight verses of 1 Corinthians, chapter 15, gives us three proofs why we can be confident in the truth of the resurrection



The power of the gospel  
*transforms our lives*  
when we put our faith  
in JESUS CHRIST as Lord  
and Savior because  
God the Holy Spirit  
*comes to dwell*  
inside of us.

**Paul's first argument: The transforming power of the gospel.** Now, it is important to note that the believers in the Corinthian church did believe in Jesus Christ's resurrection. And Paul points to the transforming power of the gospel in their lives as his first proof.

Let me re-read 1 Corinthians 15, verses 1-2. Paul writes, *"Now I would remind you, brothers [and sisters], of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain."* (1 Corinthians 15:1-2, ESV)

Here, Paul is saying, brothers and sisters, remember! Remember what your lives were like before you heard and received the gospel message. Do you remember your fears and anxieties? Do you remember the ways you lied and deceived people?

Do you remember those things you used to do that you didn't want anybody to know about? Do you remember your selfishness, and greed, and lust?

Now, Paul says, remember how your lives changed when you heard, and received, and took your stand in the gospel message.

The power of the gospel transforms our lives when we put our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior because God the Holy Spirit comes to dwell inside of us. And the Holy Spirit begins to transform us from the inside out. The Holy Spirit begins to transform our thinking and our actions.

Can you believers here this morning testify to that? Has belief in the gospel of Jesus Christ transformed your life? Yes? I know it transformed mine.

But here's the thing. The gospel cannot transform you until you hear it, and receive it, and stand in it. To "receive" the gospel message means you welcome it and accept it as truth.

To "stand" in the gospel message means you anchor yourself in it. It becomes your foundational truth. It becomes your identity. It becomes your source of strength. And no hardship, or struggle, or persecution, or pandemic can move you off your settled belief in it. You stand in it.

And because we stand in the gospel, the good news of what Jesus Christ did for us, saves us. Now, what does it mean to be

saved? We use that word a lot.

The word "saved" in verse 2 is all encompassing. To be saved means your sins are forgiven, and you are brought into right relationship with God. To be saved means you are rescued from danger, the danger of hell, and demonic influence, and the wrath of God. To be saved means the healing of your body, spirit and emotions. To be saved means God's peace and joy is released in all aspects of your life. To be saved means we spend eternity in God's presence, the place the bible calls heaven.

Coming to faith in Jesus Christ transformed the Corinthian believers. And it transforms us. It allows us to dump all the baggage of our past, all our guilt and shame and remorse, and move forward into a qualitatively new life.

The transformation caused by our salvation in Jesus Christ is one proof of the truth of the resurrection. This is why our testimony of how our belief in Jesus Christ transformed us is so important. I encourage us to take some time and consider this transformation. Be prepared to testify about it.

**Paul's second proof: The Old Testament Scriptures foretold it.** Now, moving on, Paul's second proof for the resurrection is the Old Testament scriptures which foretold his crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

Let's re-read verses 3-4. *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, ESV)

Jesus Christ died, was buried, and was raised on the third day, all in accordance with the Scriptures. Scriptures which were written hundreds of years before they came true.

There are over three hundred prophecies about the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that came true. And again, they were written hundreds of years before their actual fulfillment.

This tells us God's word, contained in our bibles, can be trusted. God's word foretold Jesus Christ would die by crucifixion. Jesus' crucifixion is confirmed by secular sources at that time.

*Continued next page*



God's word foretold Jesus Christ would be buried. Again this is confirmed by secular sources. God's word then foretold Jesus Christ would be raised from the dead. The first two came true. There is no reason to doubt this last prophecy as we will see in a moment.

So, fulfilled prophecy is the second reason we can believe in the resurrection.

**Paul's third proof: Jesus Christ was seen by witnesses after his resurrection.** Next, Paul's third proof is this. Jesus Christ was seen by witnesses after his resurrection. Let's re-read verses 4-8. *"that he [Jesus Christ] was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve [apostles]. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me."* (1 Corinthians 15:4-8, ESV)

Here is the most compelling proof of Jesus Christ's resurrection. Over five hundred people, including those closest to him, saw Jesus Christ alive after he was raised. Over five hundred people. Some of his disciples saw him multiple times, and actually ate with him. Some of these witnesses were still alive when Paul wrote this letter. This is evidence that would stand in any courtroom.

These original witnesses, beginning with eleven of the first twelve disciples, willingly died for their belief that Jesus Christ has bodily risen from the dead. And, let me ask you this. How many people do you know who are willing to die for a lie?

So, here we have Paul's three arguments for the truth of the resurrection; the transforming power of salvation, the Old Testament scriptures which foretold his death and resurrection and which were fulfilled, and the more than 500 witnesses who saw Jesus Christ alive after he was raised.

Brothers and sisters, we can be confident in the truth of the resurrection.

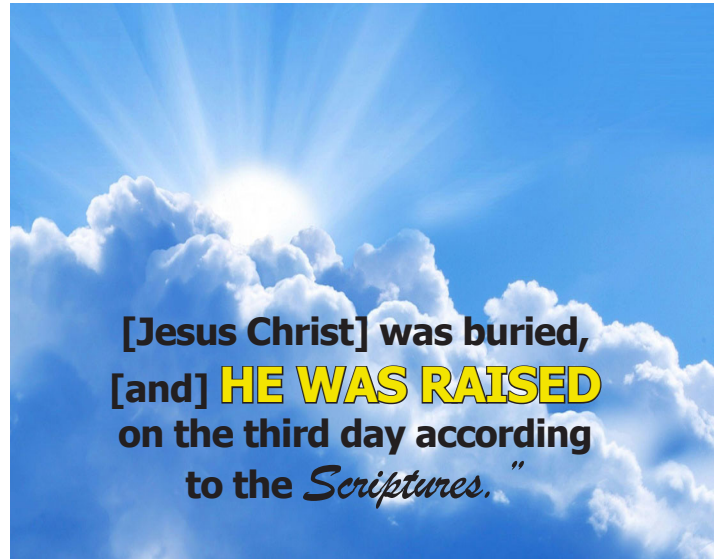
**The basic gospel message:** And, finally, as part of his argument for the resurrection, Paul lays out for us in these verses the basic gospel message. This is the message we must hear, receive and stand in.

First, verse 3 says, "Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." Jesus Christ died for **our** sins.

Can we be honest with ourselves this morning? If we are completely honest with ourselves, we know that we have not lived perfect lives. We know that in ways big and small, we have been disloyal and disobedient to God. Often, we have simply ignored God. There is no place for God in our busy, busy lives.

We also know we have not always treated one another as we should. We do not always tell the truth. We struggle with envy, jealousy and pride. We are prone to hold grudges.

I ask each of us here this morning to examine ourselves in light of God's ten commandments. For instance, have you ever



lied? Have you ever stolen anything, even something small? Have you ever taken the Lord's name in vain? Have you ever lusted after someone in your heart? These all break one of God's ten commandments.

All of us, including myself, if being honest, must answer yes to one, or all, of these questions. In sum, we all fall short of how God expects us to live. And this separates us from God. God is morally perfect. God is holy. And God will not have our disobedience, and our disloyalty, in his holy presence. That is the bad news.

Now, here is the Good News. God is also the God who is love. And God determined that love would overcome our disobedience. And so, at the appropriate moment in history, God's love sent God's own Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. God sent Jesus Christ to make a way for us to come back into right relationship with God.

God's love built a bridge for us, a bridge over that chasm of our disobedience, a bridge which leads back to God. That bridge is the historical person of Jesus Christ.

Here is the essence of the gospel message. Jesus Christ came and died, in our place, for our disobedience. Jesus Christ died that we would have a bridge to life, life with God. (Eph. 1:7) And so, our text says, *"Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."*

Yet, Jesus Christ did not come only to die. Jesus Christ came that death might be defeated forever. And here, our text tells us: "c

Jesus Christ was in the tomb for three days. There is no question he was dead. He was killed by Roman soldiers who were experts at death. Yet, Jesus Christ overcame death when the power of God raised him up on the third day. As we saw earlier, Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead is one of the best attested events in all of history.

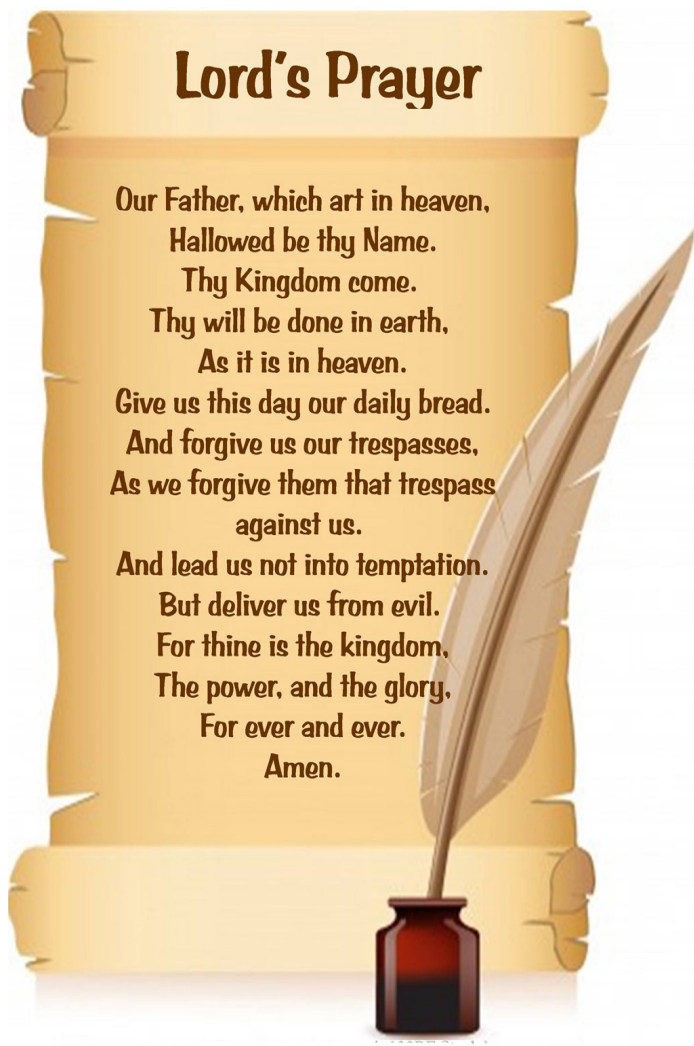
Because Jesus Christ is raised from the dead, we believe he is who he said he was, the Son of God. And because Jesus Christ is raised from the dead, we have confidence that, so too, will those

who put their trust in him; so too will those who choose to follow him.

Eternal life is not just something that Christians experience after they leave their bodies and go to Heaven. Eternal life is available now. Eternal life which includes those things we talked about. Being made right with God, joy and peace in all aspects of our lives, healing of relationships, healing of our bodies. It is all available now. Yet it must be received.

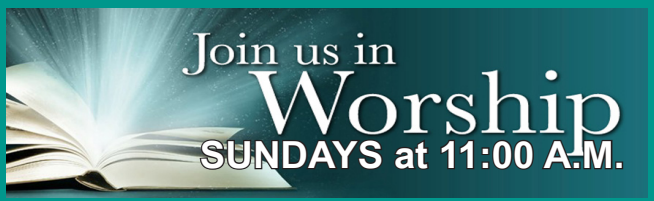
And so, I want us to pray. If you want to receive salvation in Jesus Christ, pray after me. "Father, I have heard your gospel preached this morning. I now receive it. I welcome it and accept that it is true. Father, I repent of my sins. (name them) I am sorry. I believe Jesus Christ died in my place so my sins can be forgiven. I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I choose to stand in his truth, and in his forgiveness. I ask the Holy Spirit to come and live inside of me. Thank you Father. In Jesus name.

<sup>1</sup>Wiersbe, W. W., *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, (Wheaton Ill., Victor Books, 1989) p.617.



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

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySIBjL1VkuMhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031  
Password: 351955  
One tap mobile  
+16699006833,,384758031# US (San Jose)  
+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)


## FINANCIAL REPORT

**MARCH  
2021**



	<u>MARCH 2021</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 7,138	\$ 21,292
Disbursements	\$ 13,745	\$ 36,222
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 6,606)	(\$ 14,930)

## Gift & Offering



**O**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**

# 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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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