

# 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

**MAY**  
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## TWO Celebrations

PART 2

*your pastor writes*

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



**G**reetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the readers of the *Parish Visitor!* This is the second part of the message on the two celebrations in Revelation, chapter 19. I pray this message will be an encouragement for the times in which we live.

*Two Celebrations Part 2 Rev. 19:6-10 May 30, 2021, originally given on April 11th at CPC*

**Introduction (Two Celebrations):** This morning, we will continue on our discussion of Rev. 19:1-10. Again, Rev. 19:1-10, has two celebrations in it.

The first celebration is God's judgement on Babylon. Here, God's people rejoice in their deliverance from evil. If you missed it, I would encourage you to listen to it on our website.

*Continued next page*



Join us in  
**Worship**

**Our doors are OPEN;  
We are GLAD  
to have 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 has re-opened for in-person worship services every Sunday at 11:00 AM.

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

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](http://cpchollywood.org).

You can send in your prayer requests PRIOR to the service via email to [sbaroldy@gmail.com](mailto: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.**



*your pastor writes* ...Continued from Page 1

*“Then I heard what seemed to be the **VOICE** of a great multitude, like the **ROAR** of many waters and like the **SOUND** of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,*  
**“HALLELUJAH!”**  
*For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.*

The second celebration is our invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb. We celebrate because all who have put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to this supper. These two celebrations, in Revelation 19:1-10, fulfill two eternal longings of our hearts.

First, we long for evil to be judged. We long for evil to be “no more.” We long for all the injustices caused by the devil, and those who follow Babylon the prostitute, to be set right. Our hearts long to be set free from oppression. Our hearts long for justice. And, as we saw last week, God will fulfill this longing when Jesus returns.

Second, we yearn to be in the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We yearn to see his face. We yearn to feel his overwhelming love for us. We yearn to experience his supernatural joy and peace.

Now, we experience occasional flashes of his love, joy and peace. At the marriage supper of the Lamb, we will experience the fullness of Jesus’ love, joy, peace, and contentment. This will be our constant state of being for all eternity.

Don’t we long for that? Don’t we long for our spirits to be at perfect rest? So, let’s get our hearts, minds and spirits ready to celebrate. And, let’s be ready to receive.

Last time, I gave this message on the wedding supper of the Lamb, the presence of God in the sanctuary was very strong. This tells me the Holy Spirit wants us to hear, really hear, and receive this message in our spirits.

**We are the bride of the Lamb:** So, let’s talk about our second celebration.

Let’s re-read verses 6-9. *“Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.*

*Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.””* (Revelation 19:6–9, ESV)

Let’s focus on verse 7. Verse 7 reads, *“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.”* First, let’s understand, that throughout the bible, the relationship between God, himself, and God’s people is spoken of as husband and wife.<sup>1</sup>

For instance, Isa. 54:5-6 says, *“For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. For the LORD has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.”* (Isaiah 54:5–6, ESV) So, God is called the husband of his people.

And then in John 3:29, John the Baptist calls himself “the friend of the bridegroom,” the bridegroom being Jesus. So, Jesus Christ, who is God, is our bridegroom, and, we, his followers, are the bride.

**Betrothal:** Now, to really understand what is happening here, we need to review the Jewish wedding traditions of that time.

There were three steps in getting married. The first step is engagement, or betrothal. The second step is preparation for the wedding. And the third step is the wedding and wedding supper.

So, first, there was the betrothal ceremony. Here, the prospective groom and his best man would travel to the prospective bride’s house. There they would finalize the “purchase price” with





the bride's father.

Yes, at that time, brides were purchased for a price. As soon as the groom paid the "price," the marriage was technically in effect. The man and woman were legally husband and wife.

As part of the betrothal, the new covenant relationship between the husband and wife was sealed by drinking a cup of wine, over which a betrothal benediction was spoken. The benediction always included these words, "This cup is a new covenant," symbolizing the new covenant made between the groom and the bride.

"This cup is a new covenant." Where have we heard that before? It's part of the Lord's Supper. We'll talk more about that in a minute. So, that is the betrothal.

**Preparation and Wedding Celebration:** Next, came the preparation for the wedding. After the betrothal, the bridegroom would return to his father's house for approximately 12 months. During this time, he would prepare a room for the bride in his father's house. And the bride would prepare herself for the wedding, because she did not know when the bridegroom would return.

Finally, when the father said it was time, the bridegroom, dressed in festive clothing, and accompanied by his best man and friends, would make his way back to the bride's home. They would normally arrive around midnight.

The bride would come out with her maidens, who were carrying lamps, and they all would join the groom and his friends. There was a brief ceremony involving the word "take." The groom would "take" the bride from her home.

Then, the wedding feast, or the marriage supper, would begin. The wedding feast would last between seven and fourteen days. This is why Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana. The celebration went on so long the hosts had run out of wine.

**We are married to the Lamb:** Now, with that understanding of the three stages of marriage, let's apply it to our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Right before Jesus was arrested and crucified, he celebrated Passover with his disciples. During the Passover meal, Jesus says, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." Jesus, then, tells them

he is leaving. And he tells them they cannot come where he is going. Not yet anyway.

What is happening here? Jesus is betrothing himself to his disciples. Jesus is telling his disciples, and us, that he is our bridegroom and we are his bride.

What is the purchase price he paid for his bride? The purchase price Jesus paid for his bride was his blood. It was his death on the Cross. So, at the last Supper, Jesus betrothed himself to us. And, then, he paid the bride's purchase price through his death on the Cross.

Next, in John 14:1-3, Jesus tells his disciples this, "*Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take (notice this word) you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*" (John 14:1-3, ESV)

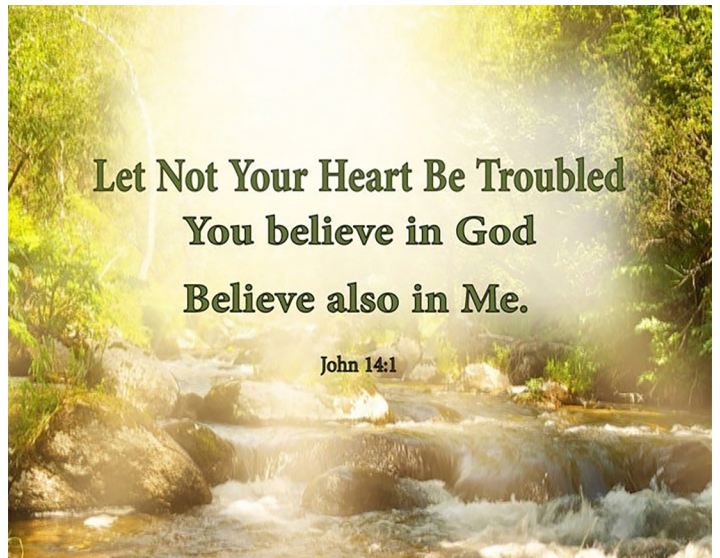
Here, we have the preparation for the wedding. Jesus tells us that he is going away to prepare a place for us in his Father's house. And when the time is right, he is going to come for us, and take us as his bride, to be where he is, forever.

So, even now, our bridegroom, the Lord Jesus, is preparing our place in the Father's house. And, now, in Revelation, chapter 19, we have the wedding feast. Our bridegroom has come for us.

This is what the multitude in heaven is rejoicing over in Revelation, chapter 19. Again, verse 7. "*Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.*"

Our bridegroom, Jesus Christ is coming. And we celebrate his coming every time we partake of the Lord's Supper. Every time we partake of the Lord's Supper, we proclaim our betrothal to Jesus Christ, our bridegroom. We proclaim, that on the day the Father has set, our bridegroom will come for us.

And, again, Jesus Christ is, even now, preparing our place in the Father's house. And we, as the bride, must make ourselves ready.



**The Bride prepares herself.** And so, how do we, as Jesus Christ's bride, prepare ourselves?

First, the bride must commit herself to the bridegroom. We commit ourselves to Jesus Christ by accepting him as Lord and Savior. He has purchased us with his blood. And we must commit ourselves to him to complete the betrothal.

Next, Rev. 19:8-10 says, "*it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure*"— *for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*" (Revelation 19:8–10, ESV)



Rev. 19:8 says "*it was granted her [the bride] to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure*"— *for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.*

Once we commit to Jesus Christ, we are set free from the power of Babylon. Our captivity to the demonic powers behind Babylon ends. When we declare our commitment to Jesus Christ, we are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit, who empowers a new life. A new life with new righteous deeds. Our deeds don't save us. Our deeds are a response to what Jesus had done for us.

So, we prepare ourselves to be Jesus' bride through our righteous deeds. God's word summarizes these deeds this way. Love God and love your neighbor. Love God and love your neighbor. It's as simple and as hard as that.

Next, we prepare ourselves by reading God's word, for the testimony of Jesus, as recorded in God's word; is the spirit of prophecy, as verse 10 says.

God's word is so important. Even the angel affirms "*These are the true words of God.*" God's word details for us the character and attributes of our Bridegroom. God's word helps us understand the righteous deeds to which we are called. And God's word tells us what to expect from Babylon and how to resist Babylon's temptations. We must resist Babylon, the prostitute, and stay

committed to our bridegroom Jesus Christ.

Also, God's word helps us hear our bridegroom's voice. We listen for Jesus' voice and we follow him. We do what Jesus asks us to do. And, we look forward, with anticipation, for Jesus Christ's arrival and the wedding supper.

Today is Pentecost. Today we celebrate God pouring out his Holy Spirit on the church. This reminds us to keep oil in the lamps of our spirits as we wait. This reminds us to continually refill the oil in the lamps of our spirit.

Of course, oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. We are called to stay filled with the Holy Spirit while we wait. How do we stay filled? By doing what we just talked about. Loving God and loving our neighbor. Reading God's word. Praying and asking to be filled.

Last, we give testimony to the transforming power of our faith in Jesus Christ. And we invite others to join us in the wedding supper by committing their lives to Jesus. By all these things, we prepare ourselves for the bridegroom's arrival.

**How does all of this impact our discipleship.** Finally, what does the celebration of the wedding supper of the Lamb mean for our discipleship?

First, this image of Jesus as our bridegroom, and we as his bride, conveys to us the depth of Jesus' love for us. Yes, Jesus loves us as his disciples. Yes, Jesus loves us as his friends. Yet, even more than this, Jesus loves us as his bride. Jesus is passionate about us.

Think about this for a moment. The Lord of the universe loves each of us passionately as his bride. Take a moment and receive that revelation!

Second, if Jesus is our bridegroom, the core issue of discipleship is loyalty, or fidelity, to him. Which means we cannot be seduced by the pleasures of Babylon, the great harlot. We must decide once and for all. Will we be a faithful bride or play the harlot by chasing after other gods?

Third, if Jesus Christ is our bridegroom, then, we have security in our relationship with him. He has purchased us with his own blood. He has made covenant with us and he will never break that covenant. He loves us too much.

Finally, we are called to be ready when he comes for us. We are to eagerly anticipate his arrival.

I finish with Rev. 19:7. "*Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.*" Amen!

See you next month,  
Pastor Steve

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<sup>1</sup> This line of reasoning is laid out by Darrell Johnson in his book, "Discipleship on the Edge, (Vancouver, B.C., Regent College Publishing, 2004). p. 309ff



## 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 Zoom Meeting  
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## FINANCIAL REPORT

MAY  
2021

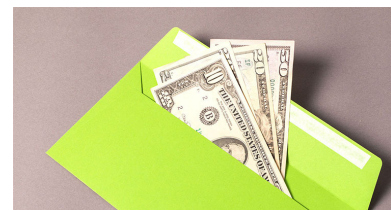


	<u>MAY 2021</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 9,452	\$ 53,893
Disbursements	\$ 11,488	\$ 59,965
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 2,036)	(\$ 6,072)

## PRAYER Request

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



**T**he Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives. Amidst all the challenges, 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.

We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting our mission and 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

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