

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

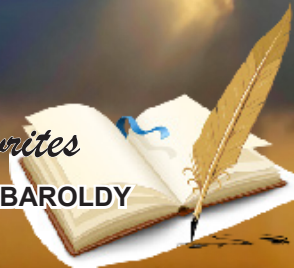
MAY
2022
VOL. LXXVI NO. 5

EASTER REFLECTION:

God's Promise of Life

your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



WELCOME BACK

in our Sanctuary!



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the readers of the *Parish Visitor*!

We celebrated Resurrection Sunday last month. The message below is this year's Resurrection Day message. I pray you will experience God's wonderful love as you read it. Happy Resurrection Day!

Easter Reflection: God's Promise of Life (John 10:10, various)
Originally given on April 5, 2022 at CPC

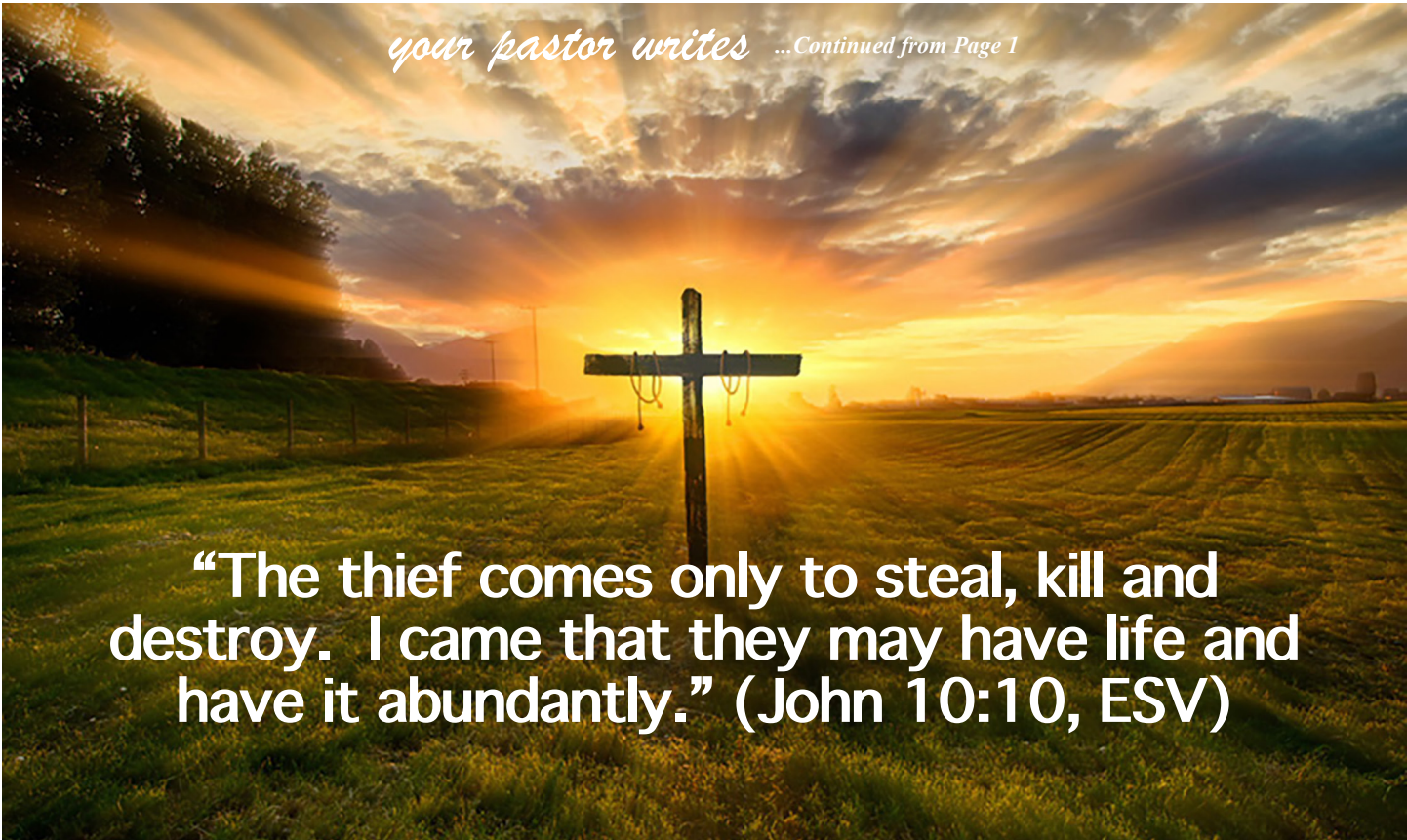
Introduction: God's Promise of Life Brings Joy: Today, we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ! For Christians,
Continued next page

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

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.

You can send in your prayer requests PRIOR to the service via email to sbaroldy@gmail.com or text at 323-202-5078.



“The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10, ESV)

today is a day bursting with joy. Can't you feel the joy in the sanctuary this morning? Why does our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ bring such joy?

Yes, we experience the joy of simply being together as God's family. Yes, we experience joy as we hear Lynne, Denise and Brian, Tom, and Jimi praise God through their music. All of these things contribute to the joy we feel this morning.

Yet, our joy has its root in something much deeper. We are joyful this morning, we are full of hope this morning, because the resurrection of Jesus Christ validates God's promise of life. Jesus Christ promised his followers, that in him, we have abundant life now, and eternal life with him forever.

The life God gives us, in Jesus Christ, is a life overflowing with joy. And, the Holy Spirit intensifies our joy as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We should feel joyful every morning as we live in the reality of the resurrection each and every day. Amen!

Jesus' Resurrection validates life: John 10:10 says, *“The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I came that they may have life [the highest and most blessed life] and have it abundantly.”* (John 10:10,

ESV)

Jesus' resurrection validates Jesus' promise of life. A life which is abundant. A life which is super-sized.

This is abundant life which overcomes our failures. This is abundant life which is stronger than our anxieties and fears. This is abundant life where the best is yet to come.

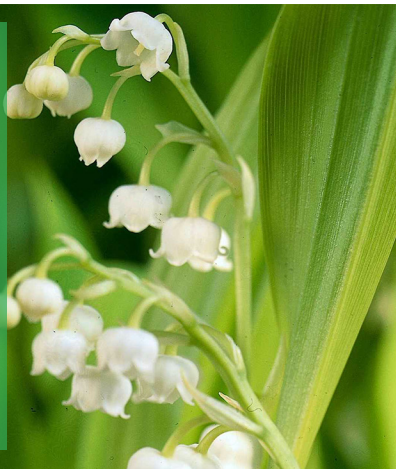
Jesus came from heaven to earth, and died in our place, for our sins, and was raised from the dead on the third day, that we might have life and have it abundantly. This is how much God's loves us.

Next, the resurrection validates Jesus' promise of eternal life. Life which literally overcomes death. After Lazarus died, in the gospel of John, chapter 11, Jesus said this to Martha, Lazarus' sister. Jesus said, *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.”* (John 11:25, ESV) Now, that's a promise!

Jesus tells those who believe in him, though your physical body dies, yet, shall you live. In other words, your spirit, your eternal self, that essence which makes you who you are, this self shall live. And this eternal self will receive a new resurrection body when Jesus returns to gather his followers. Again,

"I am the
RESURRECTION
and the *life*.
Whoever believes
in me, though he
die, yet shall he
LIVE."

(John 11:25, ESV)



incredible promises!

Jesus' followers no longer need fear physical death because death is simply a transition to more life with Jesus in heaven. When we physically die, we go from life here to more life there. Removal of the fear of death releases joy, doesn't it? It lifts this giant boulder of uncertainty off our shoulders. And, it gives peace and comfort to our families.

So, even though we grieve, when a loved one who believes in Jesus dies, we still rejoice at the Memorial Service because we know we shall see our loved one again. I so look forward to seeing those who have gone before, don't you?

This promise of life, validated by Jesus' resurrection, and sealed by the indwelling of God, the Holy Spirit, brings hope and hope releases joy.

And, here is an exciting part of God's promise of life. This promise of life is not just for eternity. This promise of life is for right now. Jesus tells us in John 10:10 that he came so we might have life and have it in abundance **now**.

The Holy Spirit dwells in Jesus' followers **now**. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit increases our quality of life, now. Because wherever we go, whatever we do, God is with us and in us. And the Holy Spirit, in us, is always praying for us according to God's will for us. This gives us a sense of peace and security, and joy.

Bottom line, the Holy Spirit is abundant life dwelling in us. The Holy Spirit is eternal life dwelling in us. Amen! Jesus' death and resurrection makes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit possible.

God's promised life is a choice: Yet, here is the thing. God's promised life is a choice. We must choose the life God has promised.

One of the things that distinguishes human beings from all other creatures God created is that God created humans in his image. Gen. 1:26 says, "Then God said, "Let us make man [generic for humankind] in our image, after our likeness. . . ." (Genesis 1:26, ESV)

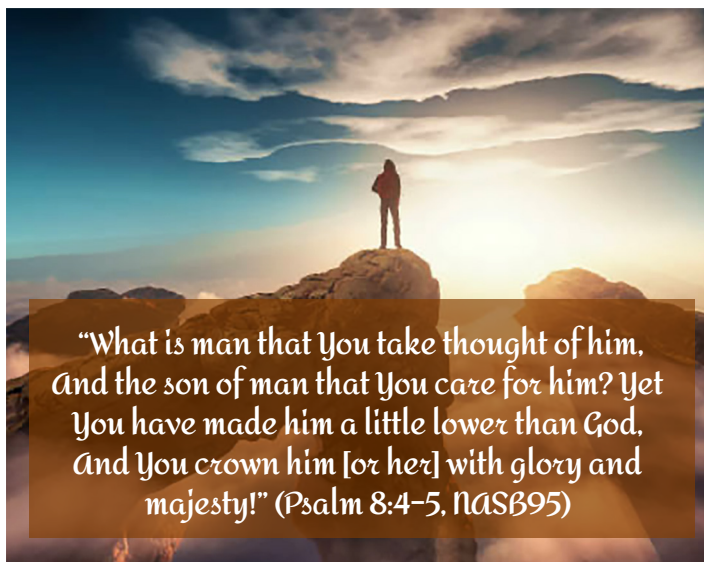
And part of our being created in God's image is that God has given us the ability to choose. We, humans, are free to choose life with God, or life without God. Which have you chosen?

We see a second aspect of being made in God's image in Psalm 8:4-5. King David wrote, "What is man [generic-means men and women] that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him [or her] with glory and majesty!" (Psalm 8:4-5, NASB95)

Did you catch that last part? God made us humans a little lower than himself and crowned us with glory and majesty. Have you ever thought about yourself that way? That when God created you, God crowned you with glory and majesty. Isn't that encouraging?

God's desire for us is that we would live lives that reflect his glory and his majesty. That is the life God intends for us. A majestic life that goes from glory to

Continued next page



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glory.

Yet, this begs the question. Why don't our lives match up with this? Why aren't we experiencing the glorious, majestic life that God intended for us?

It's very simple. Humans make bad choices. We use the freedom of choice we have been given and we choose wrongly. And our wrong choices affect not only us but the people around us.



For example, Deut. 6:5 gives us a foundational requirement for living the life God has intended for us. Deut. 6:5 says this. "You [talking about God's people] shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." (Deuteronomy 6:5, ESV)

So, the first thing God wants is for us to be in relationship with him. God wants us to love him with all our heart; with everything we are. This implies that we will live our life God's way. This means we will live our life according to God's word. Yet, we refuse.

Why? Because there is something inside of us that is broken. There is something inside of us that has been bent, that has been twisted. Jesus addresses this issue in Mat. 15:19. Again, Jesus speaks of our heart, which refers to the totality of our inner nature.

Jesus says, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft,

false witness, slander." (Matthew 15:19, ESV) Pretty strong stuff!

We don't live the majestic, glorious life God intended for us because, outside of Jesus Christ, our hearts are broken. Our thought life is bent. We make bad choices. And we can't help ourselves because the problem is inside of us.

God's promise of life is opposed: And this is no accident. It is no accident because God's promise of life has an adversary. Jesus says this in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Again, Jesus came to restore the majestic life God intends for us. A life overflowing with love, and joy, and peace. A life filled with meaningful relationships and satisfying activities. Jesus says he came that we might have this life in abundance.

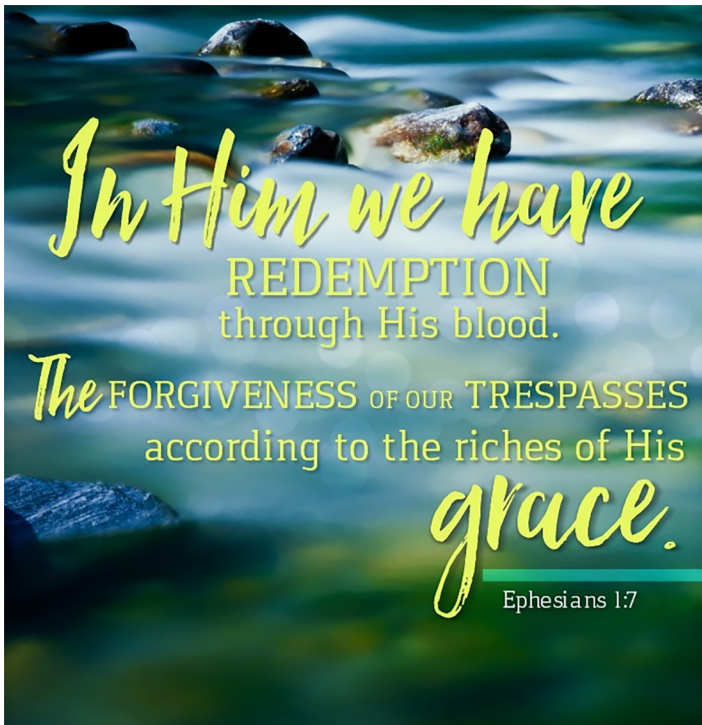
Yet, this is what we must understand. The life God wants for us is actively opposed.¹ We have an adversary that wants to steal and kill and destroy the life God wants for us.

Let me ask you this. Have you felt like there was someone or something working against you? Life is just rolling along, everything seems good, and then, wham! Suddenly, there is conflict in a relationship. Or, there is a sudden illness, in you, or in your family. Or there is trouble at work. Or there is a series of accidents. Or you take a hit in your finances. Or multiple things happen at once.

And, all of a sudden, things are not so good. And, you begin to wonder, what is going on? Why is my life all of a sudden so difficult? Why am I stressed, and anxious, and worried all the time? Why does it seem like I am being opposed at every turn?

Well, it's because you are being opposed at every turn. Again, Jesus tells us about this opposition in the first part of John 10:10. Jesus says, "The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy."

Who is this thief? Jesus calls this thief Satan, or the devil. The thief is an archangel who rebelled against God and was kicked out of heaven along with other angels who joined in the rebellion. And,



cut off from the life God intends for us.

God's promise of life is fulfilled in Jesus Christ:

Which brings us to the good news. Are you ready for some good news? Here is the good news. God's promise of life is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Eph. 1:7 says, "In him [in Jesus Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace," (Ephesians 1:7, ESV)

Here are three benefits of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. First, Jesus Christ's death on the Cross redeems us, it sets us free, from the power of the devil.

Second, on the Cross, Jesus dies the death we deserve because of all our wrong choices. Rom. 6:16 says sin leads to death.

Yet, the good news is Jesus dies our death. And, because Jesus dies in our place, all of our wrong choices are forgiven in him. And we are made right with God. And through Jesus' resurrection, death itself is defeated.

And third, once we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit. So, now, we have the power of God inside of us to put us on the path towards the abundant life Jesus came to give us. Now we have the power of God to help us say no to the devil. Now, we have the fruit of the Spirit which includes love, joy and peace.

God's promise of life is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This is why we experience so much joy on Easter morning. Yet, to come back to where we started. God's promise of life is a choice. We must choose Jesus Christ. We must choose to follow him as Lord and Savior. Have you chosen Jesus?

See you next month,

Pastor Steve

now, the mission of these fallen angels is to oppose God's plans, including God's plans for us.

Satan's power lies in deceiving us. Jesus also calls Satan the father of all lies So, Satan's strategy is to speak lies, and half-truths to us in order to influence us to make wrong choices. Yet, please understand, we are the ones who choose do the wrong thing.

Yes, Satan will lie to us, Satan will deceive us, yet the choice remains ours. And, once we make those wrong choices, then, the effects of sin enter into our lives and sin begins to wreak havoc with us physically, mentally and emotionally.

Here is one other thing we need to understand. We become slaves to the one we obey. The Apostle Paul tells us this in Rom. 6:16, which says, "Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?" (Romans 6:16, ESV)

When we agree with the lies of the devil, and make the choice to do those wrong things, we become slaves to that which we obey. Spiritually, we become slaves to the devil and to sin. And we are

1. Idea taken from John Eldridge, *Waking the Dead* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003) p.13.

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.” (Num.6:24-26)

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Praise and thanksgiving:

- Christ Presbyterian Church as a people of God have entered their 100th year of community. A people called out to worship our Lord Jesus Christ and to witness to HIS Love for the world.
- We are especially thankful for Ron Jung's life. We experienced through Ron, GOD's saving grace, generosity, kindness, and beauty. Ron's memorial service was May 12, 2022.

- We thank GOD that Tom Chinen's first surgery went well and he is recuperating nicely. Asking that the second surgery would be scheduled in a timely manner. That the Lord Jesus go before and hem in from behind. (Psalm.139)
- Baby Bruce (Pastor Steve's 1 month old grand-nephew) had a successful eye surgery (born with cataracts causing blindness). After the bandages were removed, Bruce was like a new baby, laughing and interacting and gaining weight. Thank you, Lord!
- There is no sign of cancer in Paul Tiguelo's body as of the last CAT scan. WooHoo! Praise GOD.

For those who are grieving: Grieving is a long process. Let's keep remembering:

- Marilyn Yee, Ron Jung's sister and her husband Tom Lee and all of Ron's close friends.
- Hazel McElfresh who lost her daughter, Dee, and is parenting her teenage grandson.
- Bruce Uyemura's brother passed away the end of April.
- Esther Ingram's husband Charles passed April 25th. Esther and Charles were married 62 years.

For those who need physical healing:

- Dora, Sueko's sister, general healing and tumor in her mouth.
- Pat, Sueko's brother, general healing and respiratory.
- Yuri lives with extreme chronic pain. Praying for healing for Yuri and praying for her daughters Aya and Umi who care for her.
- Philip Nozaki, Janet's son, has cysts on his remaining kidney. Praying they will dissolve and the



kidney remain strong and healthy.

- Pastor Steve's sciatica flared-up. Praying for healing.
- Pastor Ernesto had emergency surgery to remove his gallbladder. Pray for peace while being obedient to rest. Pray also for a speedy recovery.
- Hazel, healing and strength in her back.
- Homeless friend, Moe, who came to the church this past Sunday. For healing of the mind and body.

For those who are home bound or in a care facility:

Joan Janecek, Barbara Kashiwagi, Kimi Fujitani, Karen Koranye, Frank Morimoto, Janet Nozaki, Jean Sakai, Irene Mayeda caring for her mother Harumi

General:

- For our Russian and Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ to have strength and courage to persevere in their witness of the hope we have in Christ Jesus.
- Janet Tamanaha, Stella's sister, who lives in Oregon, that she would have life abundant all the days the Lord gives her.
- Jeff, a visitor a couple of Sundays ago. That his relationship with the Lord would become more intimate. Jeff is a saint but without a home community. He visited us once.
- For each of us to ask GOD to search us and know us and transform our hearts. (Psalm 139)

Our Missionaries:

The Kostov family ministers in Vidin, Bulgaria. The Zebly family ministers in Tokyo, Japan. The Rice's minister in South Sudan. Please pray for financial supply, favor with the community, spiritual and physical protection, and renewed strength for the ministry.

For the shepherds:

Pastors Ernesto and Juana Salguero, Maria Cardenas and her speaking ministry, and Pastor Damon and Guia Woods, our neighbor church, Church on Melrose.

Centennial Greeting

from TED ESAKI

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood has entered its 100th year. Pastor Ted Esaki, his wife Kazuko and daughter Sherry are a part of this community's rich history of being a light in the darkness. (Kazuko has gone ahead of us to be with Jesus in heaven.) I asked Pastor Ted to send us a short greeting and describing a joy and a challenge he is facing these days. This is what he shares with us.

Dear Christ Presbyterian Church Family and Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Congratulations on celebrating 100 years of God's Mission in Southern California. I have fond memories of serving as pastor from November 19, 1989 until July of 2003.

I continued to give thanks for the love, support and encouragement that you gave to Kazuko, Sherry and I.

A recent joy is seeing Sherry graduate from college last month. After going from a healthy 19 year old college student at Gordon College in Massachusetts one moment to being paralyzed the next, it has been a long and painful journey for her. I am proud of the way that she persevered in learning how to walk again and continue her studies. I am grateful that her faith in the Lord has grown stronger through her trials and she has been a tremendous witness and blessing to others as she has shared her testimony with others.

The challenge we face is that Sherry lives with 24/7 nerve pain with limited mobility. Your prayers for Sherry would be greatly appreciated as we continue to trust in God's Sovereign plan for our lives.

In Christ,

Ted

We will continue to be in prayer both individually and corporately for Pastor Ted and Sherry. In gratitude we send our love in the name of Jesus Christ. (Please note Sherry and pastor Ted will be on next month's PV prayer list.)



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)

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FINANCIAL REPORT

APRIL
2022



	APRIL 2022	YTD
Receipts	\$ 16,693	\$ 45,151
Disbursements	\$ 9,973	\$ 54,073
Increase (Deficit)	\$ 6,718	(\$ 8,921)

Gifts & Offering



We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting our ministry.

Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

**Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
4011 Clinton Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004**

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD



**SUNDAYS at 11:00 A.M.
IN-PERSON OR ON ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySjBjL1VkUmhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031
Password: 351955
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