

The Parish VISITOR



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

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
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cpchollywood.org

November
2020

VOL. LXXIV NO. 11

PEOPLE

of the *Lamb*



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*!

This month, we will begin my messages on Revelation, chapter 14. Revelation, chapter 14, talks about who we are as the people of the Lamb.

If you want to hear these messages, or any of the messages on the Revelation, you can access them on our website, cpchollywood.org. Simply click on the "Messages" tab at the top of the site.

The People of the Lamb Rev. 14:1-5, originally given on Sept 6, 2020 at CPC

Introduction: A special people. Revelation 14:1-5 gives us John's vision of a very special people. These people are the people of the Lamb.

These people belong to the Lamb who stands in the very center of the throne in heaven. Who are these people? They are those who have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and who follow him, even unto death.

Rev. 5:6 gives us John's defining vision of the Lamb. It reads, *"Then I [John] saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth."* (Revelation 5:6, NIV84)

The Lamb who stands in the center of the throne is completely wise (seven eyes) and immensely powerful (seven horns). Yet, the Lamb triumphs by going to the cross. The Lamb overcomes by sacrificing himself. The Lamb wins through sacrificial love, which is the most powerful force in all the universe. This is the One to whom we belong. This is the One whom we follow. We are his special people.

A strategic position: Now, these special people of the Lamb have a strategic position in chapter 14 of the Revelation. This vision of the special people of

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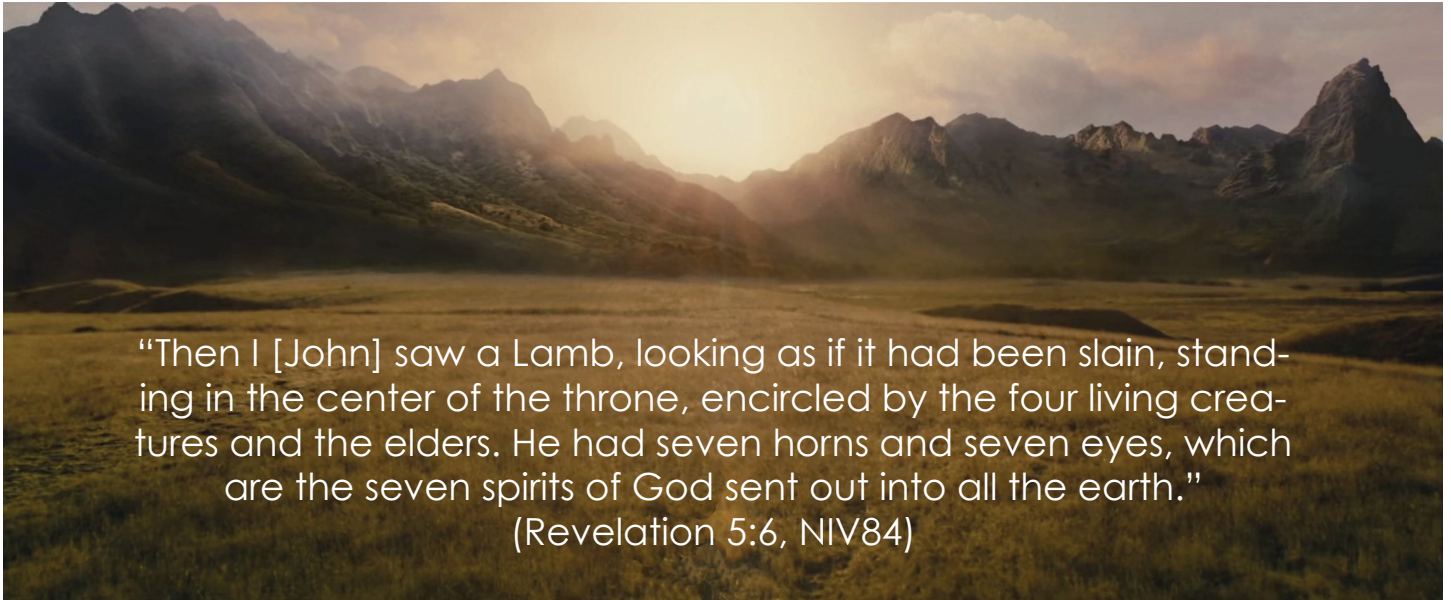
Join us in
Worship

With the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, CPC remains closed to safeguard the health of its members and congregants. We continue to hold 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.

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.**



the Lamb is sandwiched between chapters 12 and 13, on one side, and chapters 15 and 16, on the other side. So, let's see why this position is so strategic.

In Revelation, chapter 12, we have John's vision of the dragon, also called the devil and Satan. In chapter 12, the dragon is bounced from heaven. And now, in great wrath, the dragon pursues the people of the Lamb to destroy them.

Next, in Revelation, chapter 13, we have John's vision of the beast of the sea and the beast of the earth. Both beasts receive their power and authority from the dragon.

The beast of the sea represents the persecuting power of a demonized state resulting in dragon manipulated political power and institutions.¹ Wherever we see a state power persecuting the people of the Lamb, for instance, in Iran, North Korea, and communist China, the beast of the sea is at work.

The beast of the land is the propagandist for the beast of the sea. The beast of the land is dragon manipulated religious power and institutions.² These are the false Christ's, the false prophets, the wolves in sheep's clothing that lead people to worship the state, instead of the Lamb. So, the vision of the dragon and the two beasts comes immediately before the vision of the people of the Lamb.

Then, immediately after the vision of the people of the Lamb, we see God's wrath being poured out on the earth, in Revelation, chapters 15 and 16. So, between the dragon and the two beasts, and the pouring out of God's wrath on the earth, stands the Lamb and the Lamb's people in Revelation, chapter 14.

Let's pause and ponder that strategic position for a moment. Who stands between the dragon, his two beasts, and God's eternal judgement being poured out on unredeemed people on earth? It is the Lamb and the Lamb's people!

Did you get that? Let me say it again. The only thing

standing between the dragon, and his two beasts, whose chief aim is to mark humankind for destruction, and God's eternal judgement being poured out on these same people, is the Lamb and the Lamb's people. What a sobering revelation! What an incredible calling we have as the people of the Lamb!

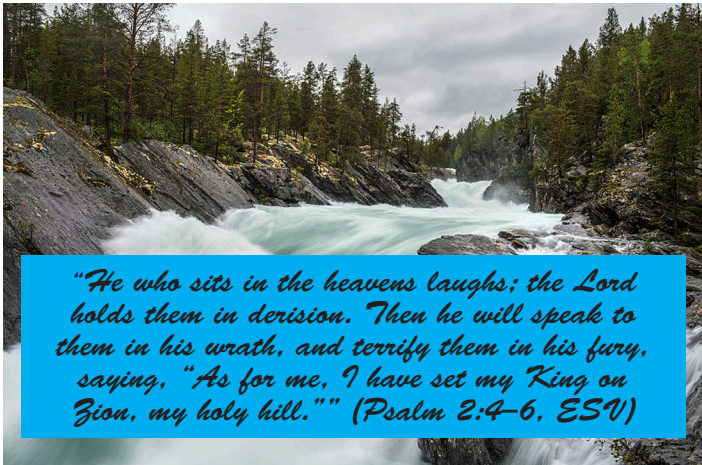
The Lamb and the Lamb's people are God's chosen instruments of salvation. They are God's strategic plan to save people from God's wrath and eternal judgement. So, let's look at three things Revelation 14:1-5 tells us about the people of the Lamb. These three things are crucial for them to fulfill their calling.

The people of the Lamb are victorious: The first thing these verses tell us is that the people of the Lamb are victorious over the dragon and his two beasts. We follow our calling with the sure knowledge, with the absolute confidence, that the Lamb has won the war. And as his people, we too are victorious. We enter our calling knowing we have already won.

Let's read Rev. 14:1 again. "*Then I [John] looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.*" (Revelation 14:1, ESV)

As we have talked about before, the 144,000 represents all the Lamb's people from both the old and the new testaments. These people, who have the Lamb's name and his Father's name, spiritually written on their foreheads, have been sealed by the Holy Spirit. They belong to the Lamb. He has purchased them with his own blood, and no one and no power can snatch them away.

In this vision, the Lamb is standing on Mount Zion with the 144,000. Now, when the original readers of Rev. 14:1 heard that the Lamb was standing on "Mount Zion," they would have immediately thought of Psalm 2. Psalm 2 is about the nations



"He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 'As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.'" (Psalm 2:4-6, ESV)

of the earth rebelling against God. The nations rebel against God's divine authority and his divine commandments.

What is God's response to this rebellion? Psalm 2:4-6 reads, *"He [meaning God] who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them [the rebelling nations] in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 'As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.'" (Psalm 2:4-6, ESV)*

God laughs at those nations who think they can get rid of God. Psalm 2 says the Lord holds them in derision because he will speak to them in his wrath. That is what Revelation, chapter 16, is all about.

Of the King, who is also the Lamb, Psalm 2:9 says, *"You [the King, the Lamb] shall break them [the rebelling nations] with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (Psalm 2:9, ESV)*

The Lamb is victorious. The Lamb who stands on Mount Zion in Revelation 14:1, is victorious over the rebelling nations. The King is victorious over the nations who have been led astray by the dragon and the two beasts. And, we, the people of Lamb are victorious in him. We stand in his victory. His victory is our victory. Amen! I pray this brings you comfort and encouragement during these trying days.

There are many nations rebelling against God these days. There is a large segment of our country rebelling against God. They are looking for salvation from a demonized state. So, when you see their rebellion, their rioting, their violence, their looting, and their defamation of the Christian faith, be encouraged that God sits in the heavens and laughs at their puny plans.

God knows the Lamb is victorious. God knows we are victorious in him. And, at the God appointed time, the Lamb will break their rebellion like a hammer breaks a potter's clay vessel. Amen!

Also, be comforted by the last line of Psalm 2, which says, *"Blessed are all who take refuge in him, [meaning the King, who is the Lamb.]"* Jesus is our refuge in this time of rebellion. Let's keep our eyes on him and trust him for refuge.

And, again, let's never forget it is the Lamb and the people of the Lamb who stand between the dragon, the two beasts, and the judgement of the nations. So, let us speak, when given the opportunity, of the victory of the Lamb, and of the refuge available in him.

The people of the Lamb sing a new song: The next thing these verses tell us is the people of the Lamb sing a new song. It is a song of praise. It is a song which gives us strength and joy in our calling.

Let's reread Rev. 14:2-3. *"And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth." (Revelation 14:2-3, ESV)*

So, here we have two voices. We have the voice of the Lamb and the voices of the 144,000. Let's listen, first, to the voice of the Lamb.

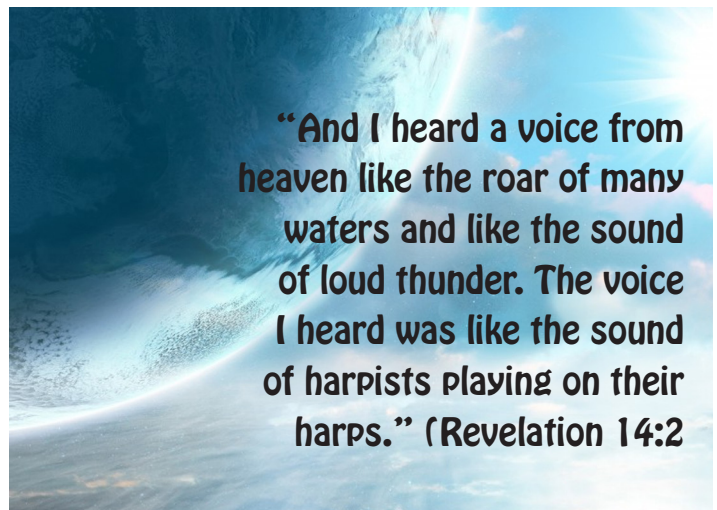
Verse 2 reads, *"And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps."*

We know this is the voice of the Lamb because *"a voice like the roar of many waters"* is the same verbiage used to describe Jesus' voice in Revelation 1:15.

And, here, in Rev. 14:2, we are given an added description of the Lamb's voice. We are told the voice of the Lamb is *"like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder."*

The voice of the Lamb sounds like the roar of Niagara Falls and the clap of thunder all rolled into one. Just take a moment and listen! Can you hear the awesome power?

Continued next page



"And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps." (Revelation 14:2)

The Lamb's voice is so powerful it created the universe from nothing. This is the voice that crushes the dragon and the two beasts. This is the voice that commands the angels to pour out the wrath of God on the earth. Nothing in the universe can stand against this overwhelmingly, powerful voice.

Yet, to the people of the Lamb, this voice is sweet. This voice is melodious. To us, the voice of the Lamb sounds like many harps playing at once. This voice brings salvation. It brings healing, and joy, and encouragement and hope. This voice is a balm to the weary spirit.

Again, listen to the sweetness of it. It is like many harpists playing on their harps! I long to one day hear the sweet, sweet voice of my Lord Jesus in person, don't you?

Now, the second voice are the voices of the 144, 000, the special people of the Lamb. First, notice the people of the Lamb are standing before the throne in heaven. This is their privilege. This is their right. Because they are in the Lamb, they will be in the physical presence of God for all eternity.

Realize also, the people of the Lamb still on earth are spiritually present before the throne of God now. And one day, we too will stand in the physical presence of God for all eternity. There the dragon and the two beasts can do us no harm. We are safe for all eternity.

Next, the people of the Lamb sing a new song, the song of redemption. We've heard this song before in Rev. 5:9-10. Rev. 5:9-10 says, *"And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.'"* (Revelation 5:9-10, ESV)

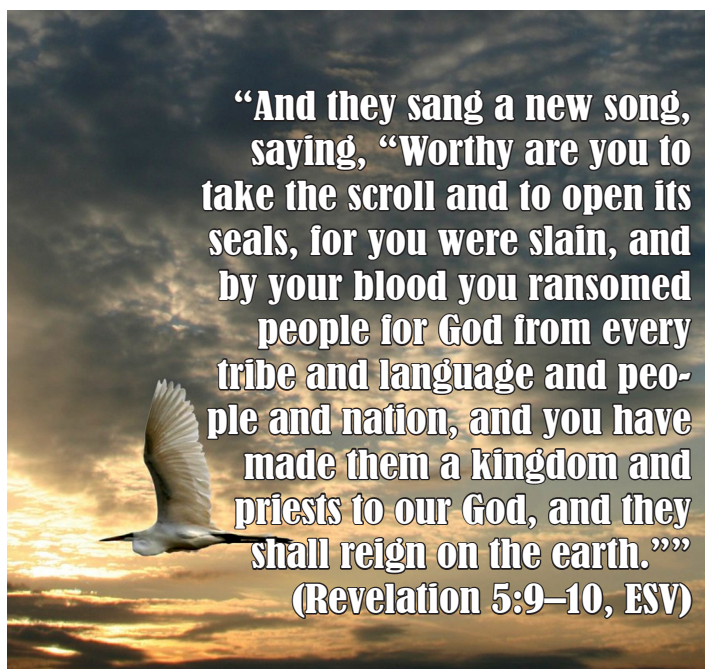
The song of the redeemed is a song of praise. The 144,000 praise the Lamb because the Lamb is worthy. The Lamb is worthy to open the scroll of history and bring human history to God's intended conclusion.

The Lamb is worthy because he demonstrated his incredible love by his willingness to be slain in our place, as our substitute. The Lamb is worthy because, according to God's plan, his blood redeems people from every tribe, language, people and nation.

The Lamb did not die for a select few. The Lamb died that everyone who comes to him, in faith, might be redeemed and, thus, be spared from the coming wrath.

The Lamb is worthy because his special people are brought into his kingdom and we are made priests to God. We, every one of us, can represent people to God and God to the people. We have a direct connection with God through the Holy Spirit. In the Holy Spirit, we stand before the throne of God right now!

And, when Jesus comes back, we shall reign on earth with the Lamb. We will, once again, have dominion over the



earth, like we did in the beginning, before Adam and Eve gave our dominion to the dragon.

We praise the Lamb because he is worthy; because he redeemed us with his blood, and because he brought us into his kingdom where we will reign with him forever. This is our new song of redemption. Let us sing it joyfully and often. Hallelujah!

The people of the Lamb distinguish themselves from the world: Finally, the third thing these verses tell us about the people of the Lamb is that we are called to distinguish ourselves from the world. Now, a full discussion of that will have to wait until next week. For now, let me just say we distinguish ourselves in three ways:

First, we remain faithful to the Lamb and the Lamb only. We do not follow after strange gods. Second, we follow the Lamb wherever he goes. We do not go our own way. We follow the Lamb where he takes us no matter the cost. And third, we always tell the truth so we remain blameless. And we will talk about all this more next week.

Again, what is the only thing that stands between the dragon, the two beasts, and God's wrath being poured out on the world?" It is the Lamb and the Lamb's people. The Lamb stands victorious on Mt Zion. And we stand victorious in him. As we stand in the Lamb, we listen to his sweet, powerful voice and we follow where he leads us. And, finally we sing the song of redemption to whomever will listen. Amen! Let's pray.

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1. Johnson, Darrell W., *Discipleship on the Edge*, (Vancouver, B.C., Regent College Publishing, 2004) p.243.
 2. Ibid.

Mariners Potluck CANCELLED

The traditional Mariners Christmas Potluck Dinner at the Chinen home has been cancelled for 2020 due to the pandemic.

Everyone have a blessed Christmas - be safe - we will gather together again in 2021.

Dream, Don't Sleep

Mark 13:24-37 & 2 Peter 3:8-15

They say you will come like a "thief in the night,"
The hour unclear, the day easily feared.

But I toss these words over the edge of my tongue,
And they don't taste right.

A thief is one that I lock out.
A thief is the one that I fear.

So I ask myself—
Did I downgrade you to no more than a thief, Great Builder?
Did you form me from the dust,
Breathe life into my bones,
And paint the horizon into the sky, all for me?

And was all of that fine,
Until you asked me to love my neighbor as myself?
Was all of that fine,
Until you said, "Dream, don't sleep"?
Was all of that fine,
Until you asked me to wake up to the suffering in the streets?

Did I imprison you to the role of the thief
To keep you from getting too close?

Forgive me, Great Builder.
Tear down the door to my house.
Crawl through the window.
Slip through the attic fan.
Dance in the security light.
Scream through the letterbox until I hear you again.
For this house is your house.
You built it.
You belong here.
I am begging you,
Break back in.

Poem by Sarah Are

(Reprinted from:
Sanctified Art "Those Who Dream" Advent Devotional 2020)

Gift & Offering

Our 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

OCTOBER 2020

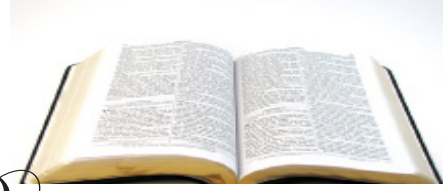


	OCT. 2020	YTD
Receipts	\$ 10,521	\$ 83,559
Disbursements	\$ 11,851	\$ 110,537
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 1,330)	(\$ 26,977)

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.

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DATED MATERIAL

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the Parish Visitor
Published by
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