

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

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Thanksgiving GRATITUDE IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to all our *Parish Visitor* readers. The following is the Thanksgiving Sunday message given at CPC. I pray it will help you be more thankful for all God's blessings in our lives.

Thanksgiving: Gratitude in All Circumstances, 1Thess 5:18, Originally given on Nov. 26, 2023 at CPC

Introduction: Earlier this week we gathered to give thanks to God for all his blessings in our lives. As we remember the holiday of Thanksgiving, it is important for us to reflect on the true meaning of this special day and to remember that gratitude is not just a one-day event, but a way of life. In this sermon, we will explore the biblical perspective on thanksgiving and how it can transform our hearts and minds.

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JOIN US AT
CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD

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.

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



“Give thanks
IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES;
FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF
GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR
YOU.” - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 (ESV)

Our key Scripture for this morning is from 1Thess. 5:18: The Apostle Paul writes, *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV)

The book of 1 Thessalonians was written by the Apostle Paul to the believers in Thessalonica. It was a church that faced persecution and trials, yet they remained steadfast in their faith. In this letter, Paul encourages them to continue living a life of holiness and to have an attitude of gratitude, no matter what circumstances they were facing.

The title of this morning’s message is “Gratitude in All Circumstances.

Thanksgiving in the Old Testament: The concept of thanksgiving is mentioned throughout the Bible, and it is closely related to the idea of gratitude. In the Old Testament, we see the Israelites constantly giving thanks to God for His faithfulness and provision. Let’s look at some verses to see what they teach us about thanksgiving.

First, giving thanks brings us into God’s presence. Psalm 100:4 says, *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!”* (Psalm 100:4, ESV)

In the Old Testament, the presence of God dwelt in the Holy of Holies in the temple complex. Here, the psalmist instructs the Jewish people to enter into the temple complex, to approach the presence of God, with thanksgiving.

Next, Psalm 95:2 says, *“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”* (Psalm 95:2, ESV)

Again, we are told to come into God’s presence with thanksgiving. So, our gratitude to God, our giving thanks to God, ushers us into God’s presence.

Next, we give thanks because God is good. Psalm 118:1 says, *“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!”* (Psalm 118:1, ESV)

So, when we give thanks to God for his goodness, we are declaring God’s goodness to the world.

Third, we give thanks to God to make known his deeds to the world. Psalm 105:1. *“Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!”* (Psalm 105:1, ESV) And, Psalm 107:22 says, *“And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!”* (Psalm 107:22, ESV)

So, when we give thanks to the Lord for what he had done in our life, and, for what he has done in the world, we make known his deeds to the world. Again, our thanksgiving points people to God.

So, when we give thanks, we enter into God’s presence. When we give thanks, we declare God’s goodness to the world. And, when we give thanks by testifying about God’s deeds, we make God’s deeds known to the world. So, giving thanks is part of our testimony.



Enter His gates with **thanksgiving**;
go into His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him and
praise His name.

PSALM 100:4

Thanksgiving in the New Testament: Now, let's move on to thanksgiving in the New Testament. In the New Testament, we see Jesus demonstrating a heart of gratitude to God.

It is interesting Jesus gave thanks before performing miracles. Jesus gave thanks before he multiplied food and fed the 5000.

Mat. 14:19 says, *"And he [Jesus] directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people."* (Matthew 14:19, NIV84) And those five loaves and two fishes fed over 5000 people.

Jesus also gave thanks before raising Lazarus from the dead. John 11:41 says, *"So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me."* (John 11:41, ESV) And then Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb.

Here is the point. Jesus knows the Father is good. Jesus knew the Father heard his prayers. And he recognized this by giving thanks, out loud, before he asked the Father to answer his prayers.

This is a great reminder for me, and for all of us, to recognize the Father's goodness by giving him thanks before we ask for our prayers to be answered.

Paul also writes about this in Phil. 4:6. In Phil 4:6, Paul

writes, *"do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* (Philippians 4:6, ESV) Paul tells us our prayers should be accompanied with thanksgiving.

In addition, Paul emphasized the importance of thanksgiving in many of his letters to the early churches. Paul understood thanksgiving was integral to the Christian life.

Col. 2:6-7 says, *"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."* (Colossians 2:6-7, ESV)

And of course, we have our opening scripture. *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV)

As we grow in Christ, thanksgiving will be a part of our everyday walk. In fact, Paul says it is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus that we give thanks in all circumstances. So let me ask. Is giving thanks, is showing gratitude to God, part of our daily walk?

Why Give Thanks in all Circumstances? In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, and in other scriptures, we see Paul challenging believers to give thanks in all circumstances. This means that we are to express gratitude to God, not just when things are going well, but also when we are facing challenges, when we are facing trials, and even in suffering.

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**"Oh give thanks to the
LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love
endures forever!"**

(PSALM 118:1, ESV)

"DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH

Thanksgiving
LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD."
(PHILIPPIANS 4:6, ESV)

This can be a difficult concept to grasp, but as we dig deeper into God's Word, we see that there are many reasons for us to give thanks in all circumstances.

First, we give thanks in all circumstances because God is in control. God is sovereign, and he works everything out for his purposes.

Now, this does not mean God is the author of all things. God does not cause illness or disease. God does not cause cancer. God does not author any evil in this world. He can't or we could not call him good.

Yet, God can take everything, whether good or bad, and work it out for his purposes. So, we can give thanks in all circumstances because we know God is good, and God is faithful. And he will eventually work all things out for his purposes.

Second, we give thanks in all circumstances because it helps us to keep an eternal perspective. In moments of difficulty, we can easily become consumed with our present circumstances. Yet, when we choose to give thanks, it helps us keep our eyes on Jesus. And, it reminds us of the bigger picture - the eternal reward that awaits us in Heaven.

Finally, giving thanks in all circumstances helps our hearts to stay in a posture of humility and dependence on God.

Conclusion: As we reflect on the biblical perspective of thanksgiving, we are reminded that it is not just a once-a-year event, but a way of life for believers. It is a reminder for us to cultivate a heart of gratitude and to express thanksgiving in all circumstances, no matter how difficult our circumstances may be. Amen!

Let's pray! *Dear Father, we thank you for your constant love, faithfulness, and provision in our lives. Help us to have a heart of gratitude in all circumstances, and to remember that you are in control. We pray that our lives will be a reflection of your goodness and that we will always give thanks to you. In Jesus' name, amen.*

See you next month,

Pastor Steve



“You (GOD) keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”

(IS. 26:3)

LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER:

SUEKO has been placed on at home hospice. Praying for Sueko to be comfortable, and alert in the days the Lord gives her. Praying for Sueko’s daughter, two sons and her granddaughter.

BRIAN ALBRITON is still at Culver West SNF. He is in a lot of physical pain. Denise is under the strain of advocacy for Brian as well as being in much emotional pain.

SUSAN ROSAL has not had a job since January. Finances are critical.

ALICE POURRAT (Pastor Steve’s granddaughter) is on a new medical protocol. Praying it is affective, and Alice would remain in remission.

MORSAN MCSWEENEY asks that we pray for her grandchildren, Avery Tristan, Kaden, and Lillian, to have self-control. That they would take personal responsibility for their own choices and actions. For herself, to not only trust GOD for finances, strength, wisdom, rest and renewal but also for a clear personal “calling” into the future.

ALISON PUZIO (Young Life Hollywood

Director who’s ministry we support) is taking a 3 month medical leave.

MATTY MIRANDA, Alison’s assistant, is stepping in to cover for Alison’s absence for Young Life activities.

JOAN JANECEK passed away on November 27, 2023. Prayers are for her family in England who will be coming to the US for her memorial service.

JANET NOZAKI has moved to Arcadia Gardens. Praying for a smooth adjustment and good friends from those who are now new acquaintances.

PHILIP NOZAKI, Janet’s son is dealing with cancer.

The Israelite saints and Palestinian saints that find themselves in the midst of a geopolitical war. Pray for safety and healing for those who were taken as hostages.

It has been a difficult time for **HAZEL MCELDFRESH** with health issues and adjusting to her new home.

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**LET US REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO ARE
HOMEBOUND OR IN CARE FACILITIES:**

Yuri Sangen, Brian Albriton, Barbara Kashiwagi, Kimi Fujitani, Karen Koranye, Frank Morimoto, Janet Nozaki, Jean Sakai, Irene Mayeda caring for her mother Harumi. Each one has extended their greetings and send their love to each of us in the CPC community.

**LET US PRAY FOR ALL CPC SAINTS
PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11:**

⁹ "I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹being filled with the fruit of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of GOD."

(Simone, November 2023)



WHAT IS ADVENT SEASON?

Advent is a four-week season in the Church calendar dedicated to anticipating the arrival, or "advent," of Jesus of Nazareth, the long-awaited Messiah and King. Christians from many backgrounds celebrate this time with reflections on hope, peace, love, and joy. And while their practices may look different, all focus on the hope-filled arrival of Jesus.

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. It is a time for faith communities and families to remember, through prayer, reflections, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is.

The Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time and to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in Christian faith. It is also a time to reflect on the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming.



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done,
On earth as It is In Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom and
the Power and the Glory forever.

Amen

FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2023



	<u>NOV. 2023</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 16,154	\$ 130,980
Disbursements	\$ 15,558	\$ 146,869
Increase (Deficit)	\$ 596	(\$ 15,889)

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**

*“Per a suggestion from a reader, we are
looking into adding a payment link to our
newsletter to make it easier to contribute.*

HOW
CAN WE
pray
FOR
YOU?

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.

The Cheerful Giver

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[a] will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency[b] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

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
One tap mobile
+16699006833,,384758031# US (San Jose)
+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)

*"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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