

Jesus Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Greetings in Christ,

So, how is the stay-in-place order issued by the Governor of Illinois affecting you? Have you watched every episode of Cheers, M.A.S.H., All in the Family, and Friends? Are you sleeping later? Are you eating more? Tired of communicating by email, text, and video? Stopped watching the nightly news? Do you feel like a prisoner in your own home? I'll bet you have never thought so much about toilet paper in your entire life. Or maybe, in your stay-in-place order you see the glass half full, giving you time to catch up with family and friends, taking up a new hobby, redecorating a room in your house, or you've discovered that you can actually cook. Who would have thought you were so talented?

Whatever your experience with this insidious pandemic, my guess is that you have raised the question, "How Long, O Lord?" How long will this virus last? How long will we have to remain isolated? How long will I have to be away from family and friends? How long will I be out of work? I am so bored. Or are you, as they say in Alcoholics Anonymous, "sick and tired of being sick and tired!?" This is quite a wilderness experience no doubt, and it is beginning to weigh on us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. "How Long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?" (Psalm 13:1a).

God has so much to say to you in your time of struggle, especially in light of your question, "How Long, O Lord?" When you are fearful and frustrated and you question God and His ways, it is a reminder that Jesus not only commanded us to pray but also promised to hear our prayers and intercede for us before the Father. But let's be sure to not blame God for this pandemic. We are not to chastise and revile the Lord for what is happening in the world. This is a direct result of sin that entered the world when Adam and Eve believed Satan's lie. He told them that they could be like God and know the things that only God knows; they wouldn't need him anymore. That fall into sin has led to serious consequences. That is why the Coronavirus is killing so many people. That is why we suffer loneliness, fear, and pain. The disobedience of our first parents is the reason why we must all face death. Therefore, we are in no position to scold God for not living up to our standard. But we can still pray, "how long?" when we go through life's tribulations.

So, how does God answer your prayer? When you are discouraged by the difficulties of life, God speaks to you in His Word, the Holy Scriptures. His Word is able to comfort you and give you peace, even when the world seems to be out of control. Look at what God has to say to you today.

*Continued on page 3*

## Giving Is a Win-Win

God is the greatest giver, and, because we were made in His image, we were created to give. Giving is a win-win activity. We as givers are blessed, the recipients of our gifts are blessed, and God is glorified. God gave us what we needed the most, a Savior, and He keeps on giving.

The giver is blessed. As sinful people, we would rather keep what we have rather than to give. We become attached to the stuff of the world, and we seek comfort and security in the things of the world. Money and possessions become our treasure. Sinful hearts love wealth. Left to ourselves, we can never put the world in its proper place. However, in Christ and by the power of the Gospel, we have a new treasure, a true treasure. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, the love of the world can be expelled from our hearts and be replaced by Christ.

God uses giving to help direct our hearts to Him and away from the love of the world. Faithful and generous giving is evidence that God is first in our lives. In giving, we break the grip that this world has on us. Jesus said, *“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Matthew 6:21). Our hearts will dwell on what we treasure the most. When we give, our hearts will follow where we give our money.

We don't give to be blessed, but God's Word clearly tells us that through our faithful generosity God will bless us. Several verses in Scripture promise us God's abundance when we honor Him through our giving. (Proverbs 3:10; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38). We are certain of His spiritual blessings and possibly material blessings.

The recipient(s) of our gifts are blessed. A constant theme throughout God's Word is that we are to help those in need. We can give individually and collectively as churches to improve the conditions of the needy. We are blessed so we can be a blessing to others.

Our giving supports the mission and ministry of our churches, Christian schools, seminaries, hospitals, and other Christian organizations that spread the Gospel.

Through our giving God is glorified. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God”* (2 Corinthians 9:11). When we give God our first and best, He is honored.

Giving is truly a win-win activity. May God help us all make giving an intentional part of our Christian journey.

## THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR STEWARDSHIP IS GOD'S LOVE DEMONSTRATED BY THE GIVING OF HIS SON.

“God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”  
Romans 5:8



## Stewardship Corner

In 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, the Apostle Paul writes that we are *“servants of Christ...entrusted with the secret things of God.”* How God honors us! It is not, however, honor without responsibility, for he continues, *“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”* Scripture is clear about what God's will for us is. He has given us gifts to be used for building up the Church and for reaching out to the lost. It is our task, as His hands, feet, and mouth to be using all our gifts in order to share the secret things of God with a lost world.

“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will rescue you, and you will glorify Me” (Psalm 50:15).

“The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18).

“Beloved we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is” (1 John 3:2).

“So, we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

“Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

These are just a few of the many Scripture passages that God speaks to you in your time of suffering. He has so much more He would like to say to you, words of comfort, peace, and joy. You long for these words today and every day. Look to the Scriptures daily for strength. Hear what the Lord has to say regarding your prayer for relief and restoration. God will not disappoint you. Paul urges you to, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Colossians 3:16a). God promises to sustain you to the very end of time, “the word of the Lord endures forever” (1 Peter 1:25).

Your heavenly Father loves you dearly and wants to hear from you in prayer. This pandemic, with its constant reminder of suffering and death, is meant to bring you closer to God as you spend time with Him.

In my office I have a cross stitch wall hanging that was given to me by one of our members. Stitched on it are the words from Psalm 145:18, “The Lord is near to all who call upon him.” What a beautiful reminder that the Lord is close to you even when you pray, “How Long, O Lord?” Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In His time and according to His will is how He answers.

Please remember to check on your neighbors, friends, and family. Serve one another in love. Shine the light of Jesus for all to see. I love and miss you all deeply.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

*Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures gives. Romans 15:4*

**Getting the Most Out of Your Daily Bible Reading**

As you read the Bible each day, allow the Scriptures to speak to you. This daily “dialogue“ between you and the biblical text will reveal new understandings about God, and about yourself.

**May**

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Romans 6:15-23      | 19 John 20:19-31    |
| 2 Romans 15:1-13      | 20 John 21:1-19     |
| 3 Isaiah 25:1-12      |                     |
| 4 Isaiah 35:1-10      | Ascension Day       |
| 5 Isaiah 65:17-25     | 21 Acts 1:1-11      |
| 6 Jeremiah 29:1-14    | 22 Acts 1:12-26     |
| 7 Lamentations 3:1-24 | 23 Ezekiel 11:14-25 |
| 8 John 11:1-16        | 24 Ezekiel 20:33-44 |
| 9 John 11:17-44       | 25 Ezekiel 36:1-15  |
| 10 Revelation 7:9-17  | 26 Ezekiel 36:16-38 |
| 11 Revelation 21:1-27 | 27 Ezekiel 37:1-14  |
| 12 Revelation 22:1-21 | 28 Ezekiel 37:15-28 |
| 13 Psalm 30           | 29 Ezekiel 39:11-29 |
| 14 Psalm 47           | 30 Joel 2:28-3:8    |
| 15 John 14:1-14       |                     |
| 16 John 14:15-31      | Pentecost           |
| 17 John 15:18-16:15   | 31 Acts 2:1-13      |
| 18 John 16:16-33      |                     |

**Set aside time**

to read the Bible on a daily basis.

**Find a quiet place**

to read and reflect on each day’s reading

**Begin with prayer,**

asking God for guidance and blessing.



**A Month of Prayer**

The Fellowship of Prayer consists of caring people who pray daily for members in the church. Members will be listed in alphabetical order each month. Please pray for their known and unknown needs.

- |                      |                          |                            |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Valerie Winston   | 8. Leonard Bartels       | 23. The Deombeleg Family   |
| 2. Vern Witt         | 9. The Bell Family       | 24. The Duff Family        |
| 3. Harold Zedler     | 10. The Bettin family    | 25. Dorothy Francis        |
| 4. Annetta Zimmerman | 11. Karen Bimler         | 26. Arlene Gasperich       |
| 5. Ron & Barb Arndt  | 12. The Blair Family     | 27. The Gibson Family      |
| 6. Susan Arnold      | 13. Bud and Lois Boese   | 28. The Hadler Family      |
| 7. Taylor Balslew    | 14. Elaine Boettcher     | 29. Steve & Lucretia Hardy |
|                      | 15. The Bozzi Family     | 30. Evelyn Haynes          |
|                      | 16. Roger Brabant        | 31. Corinne Hein           |
|                      | 17. Ruth Anne Brendemuhl |                            |
|                      | 18. Bob Brown            |                            |
|                      | 19. Doretha Brown        |                            |
|                      | 20. John & Lisa Chioda   |                            |
|                      | 21. The Czubernats       |                            |
|                      | 22. Detrall Dearbone     |                            |

**FOR THE RECORD**

Nothing to report



# May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
During Shelter in Place , all services and bible study will be online at <a href="http://www.immanuel-hillside.org">www.immanuel-hillside.org</a> or through Zoom. All previously scheduled May church and school functions have been cancelled or will be rescheduled.					1 8am - 11am Food Pantry Drop Off	2
3 - 9:30 Wor- ship Online 11AM Zoom Bible Study	4 Scrip Orders Due	5	6 10am WBS Zoom 4:30pm MBS Zoom	7 4pm - 7pm Food Pantry Drop Off	8 8am - 11am Food Pantry Drop Off	9
10 9:30 Wor- ship Online 11AM Zoom Bible Study	11	12	13 10am WBS Zoom 4:30pm MBS Zoom	14 4pm - 7pm Food Pantry Drop Off	15 8am - 11am Food Pantry Drop Off	16
17 9:30 Wor- ship Online 11AM Zoom Bible Study	18	19	20 10am WBS Zoom 4:30pm MBS Zoom	21 4pm - 7pm Food Pantry Drop Off	22 - No Classes 8am - 11am Food Pantry Drop Off	23
24 9:30 Wor- ship Online 11AM Zoom Bible Study	25 Memorial Day No Classes	26	27 10am WBS Zoom 4:30pm MBS Zoom	28 4pm - 7pm Food Pantry Drop Off	29 - Last Day of School 8am - 11am Food Pantry	30
31 Pentecost 9:30 Worship Online /11AM Zoom Bible	<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. - John 14:27					

## May Birthdays

3 Sarah Vu

6 Naomi Perez

7 Marilyn Tense

9 Kristen Karpierz

10 Samantha Hadler

11 Bill Redis

14 J.T. Redis

19 Karen Mulvihill

29 Marilyn Weeks

30 Nandi Tense

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**RETURN REQUESTED**

**POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL**

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**REMEMBER TO PRAY. . . .** If you have a prayer request, please call the pastor in the church office (708-562-5590). We are praying for you! Please notify the office when circumstances of your request change or when the Lord answers your prayers. We want to rejoice with you and thank the Lord.



**Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,  
as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10