

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

295 Sunrise SVC Road North,  
Patchogue, NY 11772

Phone: 631-475-6556

E-mail: lanwat@live.com

www.patchoguechurchofchrist.org

**Lancelot Watson- Evangelist**

Worship Opportunities

Sundays

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.

Mid-Week

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

### Patchogue Church of Christ Patchogue, NY 11772

A multi-racial community of believers with a purpose and vision to live holy lives, fulfill the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ by serving each other and our community with compassion, love and the powerful gospel of Jesus Christ.

Records Made:	11/24/19	11/17/19
<b>Bible Classes</b>	24	26
<b>Worship Service</b>	55	93
<b>Contribution</b>	\$1489.00	\$1742.00
<b>Online</b>	355.00	\$250.00
<b>Bahamas Hurricane</b>	-	\$150.00
<b>Gospel meeting</b>	26	63,36,37, 38
<b>Baptism/ Membership/ YTD</b>	- 3	- 3

**Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the Churches of Christ send greetings. Ro 16:16**

## Youth Corner

By  
Royce Frederick



### The Grace of Golgotha

Jesus suffered the agony and humiliation of public execution at “a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull” (Matthew 27:33). The religious leaders had labeled Him as an enemy of Moses. The civil government, by consenting to the crucifixion, had labeled Him an enemy of Rome. After the nails were driven through His flesh and He had been raised high above the crowd, Jesus pleaded, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34).

If Jesus of Nazareth had been an impostor, the crucifixion would surely have exposed that fact. The agony of the cross revealed His true character and grace. Instead of retaliating, He appealed to His Father to pardon His murderers. The execution, which His enemies had hoped would end His influence, became the very means by which He draws people unto Himself even today (John 12:32).

In the early days of His ministry, Jesus preached a sermon in which He had said, “... pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). Through the cross, we can see that those were not empty words. The message He preached on that mountain in Galilee, He practiced on mount Calvary. **If our Lord could forgive His persecutors in the very midst of His agony, can we be excused for bearing grudges and bitterness over the small abuses which come our way?**

## THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Patchogue Church of Christ

295 Sunrise Service Road N.

Patchogue, NY

Volume 6 No. 48

Dec. 01, 2019

### The Power of Praise

*“While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.”* (Luke 24:51-53)

A little praise goes along way. You can literally praise your marriage into greatness. You can praise your kids into success. Praise helps our self-esteem and it is one of the best preventive medicines for despair and depression.

The Church of the first century were congregations of believers who were constantly praising God and each other. The Jerusalem church is described as “praising God and having favor with all the people” (Acts 2:47). After the ascension of Jesus we are told that the disciples “stayed continually at the temple, praising God” (Luke 24:53). The excitement of these believers pushed them to praise God continually.

Jesus by His example taught us to praise each other. He was quick with praise. An army officer impressed Jesus with his faith. To the crowd Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.” (Matt. 8:10). Before a large audience Jesus said of Nathaniel, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.” (John 1:47).

The scriptures make it clear that the disciples picked up this habit to praise God and each other. To the Church in Rome the apostle Paul stated “I commend to you our sister Phoebe ...she has been a great help to many people, including me.” (Rom 16:1-3) To the Corinthians he heaped praises on Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus because “Such men deserve recognition” (I Cor. 16:18). In his second epistle to the same Church, the apostle stated that Titus “is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative;” Furthermore he said, “ we are sending along with

him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel,” (2 Cor 8:18). Of Timothy Paul wrote “I have no one else like him” (Phil. 2:20).

These are but a few of the praises and compliments given and shared publicly in the Bible. The Holy Spirit obviously thought it was important. Should we not do the same today?

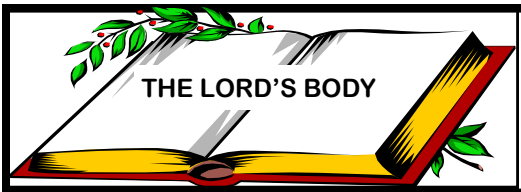
We should praise our loved ones at home. Sometimes we are pretty good at praising “away from home,” but not so good, praising at home. Let us start at home. Our praise should not have strings attached. It is not to get favors. Sincere praise given with a smile will mean much.

Praise blesses the lives of the ones being praised. It brightens their day and lifts their spirits. It gives new direction and makes the discouraged want to try again. Praise motivates to excellence. You know exactly how it feels, because it’s the way you felt the last time someone praised you sincerely for a job well done.

Praise blesses the life of the “praiser.” You cannot scatter sunshine without getting a portion yourself. Praise cures negativism. It will brighten your own outlook on the days ahead. Praise allows us to see that today’s opportunities are more powerful than the setbacks we experienced.

Praise makes a strong impact on both the giver and the receiver. Praise helps to transform lives. The cynical, uptight, hard-to-get-along with criticizer becomes a genuine praise giver, praising everyone for everything in a genuine and sincere way. Praise is powerful. Let us therefore praise God for what He has done and is doing for us and let us make a habit of praising each other for what we do or are trying to get done.

*Lancelot W.*



# The family by John Stallworth



**Guest Writer**  
EDD STERCHI  
**Rejoicing angels**



**Ladies' Corner**  
by  
*Paulette Watron*

**Privileged to Serve 12/01/2019**  
**Morning Service**  
 Ushers Tom Meehan  
Jamal Colson  
Jason Harper  
 Song leader -  
 Call to worship -  
 Welcome/Prayer Derek Peterson  
 Song #1 **Thank You Lord**  
 Scripture **Prov. 28:15-28** Brian Field  
 Song #2 **966**  
 Song #3 **My God Awesome**  
 Second Prayer John Sicignano  
 Song #4 **837**  
 Communion and Collection:  
 Lead Jamal Colson  
 Assistant C. Hendrickson  
 Assistant Steve Lynch  
 Assistant Tyler Dowdy  
 Song - Kids to class  
 Scripture - **Daniel 1:1-8** Kharlin Watkins  
 Song #5 - **Hard Fighting Soldier**  
 Sermon - Lancelot Watson  
 Invitation #6 **924**  
 Responses & prayer: Jason Harper  
John Stallworth  
 Announcements &  
 Closing Prayer Derek Peterson  
 Closing #7 **703**

**The Gospel Truth**  
 A publication of the Patchogue Church of Christ, 295 Sunrise SVC Road N, (Corner of Hewlett Ave.), P.O. Box 548 Patchogue, NY 11772.  
 Editors:  
 Lancelot Watson - 781-420-4412  
 John Stallworth - 631-312-1597  
 E-mail comments, articles and questions to: lanwat@live.com

**Can You See? (3)**  
**Like Superman**

“Can you see?” For many, this might seem like a silly question; particularly if you are reading this article. However, spiritually,

“SEEING IS MORE THAN VISION.”  
 Superman is one of the most honored heroes in the comic book realm. Beyond his superhuman powers, his character completely sticks out. Superman represents the best of what man could be:

- ◆ Kindness
- ◆ Serving
- ◆ Caring
- ◆ Loving
- ◆ Integrity

One of Superman’s well-known superpowers is his X-ray vision. He can look through virtually any material: steel boxes, flesh, walls, etc. We even remember the limitation of this power: lead. What might the spiritual ‘super’ eyes be?

- ◆ See thru Satan’s schemes  
*2 Cor. 2:11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*
- ◆ See thru darkness  
*1 Jn. 2:11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.*
- ◆ See thru deception of Sin  
*1 Cor. 6:9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men.*

Ever wonder what causes the angels in heaven to shout for joy? There are several instances of angels proclaiming joy, and they all seem to have a common thread.

The first instance of the heavenly host expressing joy is during the creation of the heavens and the earth. Recounting the incident, God tells Job that when it happened, “the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:1-7). Most Bible scholars agree that the morning stars and sons of God are in reference to angels, who apparently were created prior to the earth. So in this instance, we see the angels being joyous because of God using His creative powers to make something that had never existed before.

Let’s look at another instance of the angels showing joy. When the proper time came (Gal. 4:4), God sent His Son to be born of the human race. It is at this time in announcing the birth of the Messiah to the shepherds that angels proclaimed it a time of “great joy” (Luke 2:8-14). So here the angels express praise and joy at the coming of the Christ-child, the God-Man, Jesus. As in the creation, they are expressing joy over something that had never before existed.

There is one more instance I can find in the Bible of the angels expressing joy – and this one directly involves us. In Luke 15:10 we are told that “there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Seeing a sinner come to God and becoming a new creation brings great joy to the angels.

From these three instances, I think we can clearly see that angels get excited over new creations. Think about it: when we have our lives made new through baptism into Christ and we continue to live each day renewed in the Spirit, the angels rejoice over us. What an encouraging thought! “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!” (Rev. 12:11-12a)

**Marks of a True Christian (7)**  
**Do Not Be Slothful In Zeal!**

“Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise” (Proverbs 6:6 ). It’s not nice to be called a sluggard, is it? But this is what being slothful means. Romans 12:11 advises that one true mark of a Christian is not being slothful in zeal. This short caution has two key words and two key concepts: sluggishness and zeal.

Sluggishness can be quite devious. We may have been working quite hard and we get a little “weary,” so we feel quite justified in taking a break and easing off for a while. We have definitely not stopped – just lagging a little until we catch our breath and are ready to go full speed ahead again. Careful! Solomon continues his warning using the ant comparison: “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man” (Proverbs 6:10-11). The message is that sloth leads to destruction.

Zeal is the opposite of sloth. Synonyms include enthusiasm, passion and fervor. You may notice that these words do not describe any specific acts or actions, but they describe an attitude. They apply to how we approach tasks or more specifically our Christian life. This attitude is described perfectly in Ecclesiastes 9:10, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might.” The enthusiastic attitude can be applied to every activity in which we engage – for example, in our work for the Lord, whether evangelistic work, attendance, giving or other specific type of service. This attitude should not be put on for men’s sake. We are told, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (Colossians 3:23). It should be an attitude from the heart. An enthusiastic, zealous life is possible when we allow Christ to live in us, as Paul explained, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” Galatians 3:20. Christ’s enthusiasm will become our enthusiasm. Let us pray that we may fully develop this mark of a true Christian and “never be lacking in zeal.”