

# *The Master's Message*

## *The Newsletter of the Church of the Master*

### *November, 2025*

*Virtual Adult Bible Study*  
*Wednesday, 7:00 PM*  
*Saturday, 12:00*

*2783 Lafayette Avenue*  
*Bronx, N.Y. 10465*  
*718-597-6298*

*Sunday Worship*  
*Sunday 11:00 am*

*WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG*

*Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor*

### **SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS**

- 1) Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. THAT is faith!
- 2) When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. THAT is trust!
- 3) Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we still set the alarms to wake up. THAT is hope!
- 4) We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. THAT is confidence!
- 5) We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. THAT is love!
- 6) On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' THAT is attitude!

*Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.*  
*Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life,*  
*difficult to find and impossible to replace!*



## \*SPECIAL DATES\*

- All Saints' Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Daylight-Saving Time Ends, November 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Election Day, November 4<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Day, November 27<sup>th</sup>
- First Sunday of Advent, November 30<sup>th</sup>

## \*News From the Pews\*



### Prayer Requests

Continue praying for:  
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,  
Loretta Byrd, John Bruno,  
Alice & Alex Rivera

Our **Online Bible Study** meets  
Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00.  
Contact Ron Rivera (917-716-8273)  
for information on joining



- "Were there no God, we would be in this glorious world with grateful hearts; and no one to thank."

—Christina Rossetti

## Honor our veterans

Veterans Day, which is November 11 each year, is a holiday to honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our nation's common good.

Christians follow the Prince of Peace, so war is a dilemma that often challenges people of faith. Some Christians are pacifists, while others believe in a "just war." Many believe that the goals of freedom, justice, equality and democracy are worth the cost required.

Whatever individual Christians decide about any given conflict, most Christians believe that men and women who strive to make this world free of tyrants are to be respected. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Thank you to all the men and women who served or are now serving our country.

## \*CHURCH CHUCKLES\*

A little girl was busily drawing a picture. When her mother asked what she was drawing, the girl replied, "I'm drawing a picture of God."

"But honey, no one knows what God looks like," said the mother.

"Well, they will when I get through!"

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Charles Spurgeon was one of the greatest preachers of all times often filling halls with 6,000 to 8,000 people crowded in to hear him share the Gospel. One night, after he had delivered a particularly stirring message, a rather stern looking elderly woman waited among the throngs to speak with the great preacher. "I don't care for the way you preach the Gospel, sir. You are far too overweight; it does not become a man of God. You smoke cigars, which is terrible witness for the Kingdom of God. You often get so worked up while preaching you even spit while speaking. I tell you, sir, I just do not like the way you share the Gospel."

"I see," said Spurgeon. "And tell me, madam, how do you share the gospel?"

"Well, I don't," she stammered.

Spurgeon gazed at her and replied, "Well, I must say, I like my way bertter."



## Count your blessings

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;  
Count your gains instead of your losses.

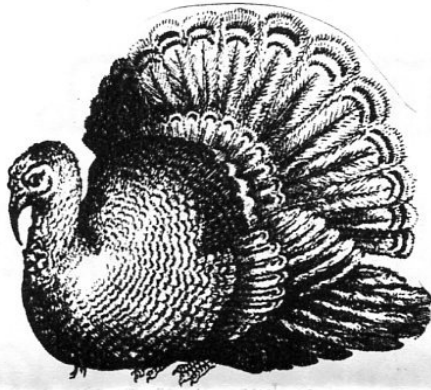
Count your joys instead of your woes;  
Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;  
Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;  
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;  
Count on God instead of yourself.

The reason Politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would hate to have to make a living under the laws they have just passed.



### I'll pay you later

When the late preacher, W.E. Sangster, was a pastor in London, a man told him that he didn't give much to the work of God, but he intended to leave a lot of money for that purpose when he died.

Dr. Sangster said he wasn't impressed. It seemed to him that the man was saying, "God can have it when I can use it no more."

The man was missing the joy of seeing what his resources could do if he regularly gave to God's work while alive. He was cheating himself out of the blessings that come from giving. Not only that, but what assurance did the man have that there would be anything left in his estate when he died?

*Let us come  
before him with  
thanksgiving.*

Psalm 95:2, NIV

### Blessed are ...

Blessed are those who have learned  
to admire but not envy;  
to follow but not imitate;  
to praise but not flatter;  
and to lead but not manipulate.

### Thanksgiving timeline

Here's a look at how the annual holiday of gratitude developed, according to History.com:

**November 1621:** The Pilgrims celebrated their first successful corn harvest by hosting a three-day feast and inviting their Native American allies, the Wampanoag Tribe.

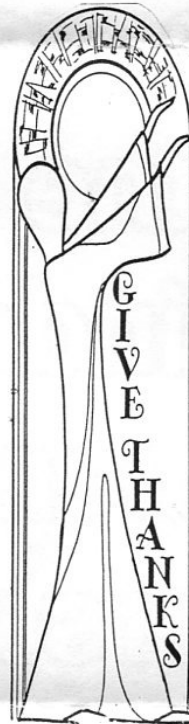
**1789:** George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation to celebrate the end of the Revolutionary War.

**1827:** Writer, editor and "Mother of Thanksgiving" Sarah Josepha Hale campaigned to make Thanksgiving a national holiday.

**1863:** During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a national holiday on the final Thursday in November.

**1939:** Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving Thursday to the third week of November to boost retail sales during the Great Depression.

**1941:** Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving back to the fourth week of November.



**We don't all stand  
in the same rain.**

**Some have umbrellas,  
some have roofs, & some  
face the storm alone.**

**Be kinder. Slow your  
judgment. Soften into  
understanding. You**

**don't know how heavy  
someone's rain is,  
until you've been  
in their storm.**

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This Newsletter article is a reprint from November 2021.\* But its message is still relevant today in November 2025. In this Season of Thanksgiving, I pray you will reflect as I have on where the Lord Jesus has brought us from. While you read and meditate on the article give thanks notwithstanding this chaotic, vitriolic, and unprecedented post-pandemic election season we have come through and are currently experiencing! Despite the current state of our body-politic, let us not lose sight of how God has blessed us, kept us, and will continue to keep us regardless of the outcome of the election season! Most importantly, let us hold fast to our faith (read—let us not allow our Christian faith to become our political affiliation), and hold fast to the love of God in Christ Jesus and love for our sisters and brothers in Christ! Happy Thanksgiving!

### ***Nothing to be Thankful for...or So It Seems\****

November usually brings thoughts of Harvest time, changing scenic foliage and falling leaves, fragrant cinnamon and spice acorns that immediately bring our thoughts to fall and the Season of Thanksgiving. But more than a few people I have talked to recently find it hard to celebrate Thanksgiving and wonder how they or we can be thankful in the face of so much tragedy, loss, distrust of our leaders, and unprecedented vitriol in our body politic in the past two years. In short, it seems that some people have lost their joy and are hard pressed to give thanks because they fear the next new variant of the dreaded Covid-19 virus will rear its ugly head and take us deeper into this deadly pandemic. Some wonder if we will ever get back to normal, whatever that means today!

It seems to me that we have a choice to make. We can allow the negativity of the Covid-19 pandemic to steal our joy and shake our faith. Or, we can adapt by the grace of God and find peace and joy in the midst of this pandemic because we know that troubles don't last always when we put them all in Jesus' hands! I am reminded of a saying of Elder Don, our Vice-President of Consistory, "Jesus, you fix it!"

Believers on Christ Jesus can hold fast to our faith and our joy because we trust that Jesus will keep and deliver us from all problems and troubles that come our way. Knowing and trusting in Jesus does not mean that believers will never experience problems or troubles. But knowing Jesus gives believers not only an assurance of pardon of our sins, but a blessed assurance that come what may, Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us.

I refuse to allow this pandemic-weary world and society to steal my joy—my "*Jesus joy*"! This joy that I have, the world did not give it to me. And, the world cannot take it away from me. The joy of knowing and believing on Jesus helps me to give thanks in good times and especially in bad and challenging times.

This is my list of blessings God has showered upon me in the midst of the pandemic; blessings I am so thankful to receive. I am thankful for the blessing of not losing my job or salary during the pandemic. I am thankful for the blessing to be able to work from my home and to be able to pay my tithes and offerings, mortgage and bills. I am thankful for the blessing of being

able to continue to hold our Church Services virtually or remotely. I am thankful for the blessing of not losing a single member—although several members did contract Covid—the Lord blessed them all to recover—without needing to be placed on ventilators! I am thankful for the blessing of re-entering our Church sanctuary for in-person worship services! I am truly thankful for the blessing (through the use of technology and social media (using the things of the world to be a blessing to the Lord and our church) and ability to livestream our Worship Services which has allowed persons from as far away as California and Arizona to join remotely to worship with us. I am thankful for all the officers and members of our Church of the Master Church family—though few in number—worked together faithfully in Teams to comply with the Covid health requirements and kept our members and visitors safe! I am thankful for the blessing of a robust and blessed Zoom Bible Study with more attendees than we'd ever had prior to Covid attending in-person Bible Study in the sanctuary! I am thankful for the blessing of faith and a faithful congregation given all the adversities the past two years have brought our way, and yet we are still here on the corner of Lafayette and Swinton Avenues!

This Season of Thanksgiving, I urge all readers of this article to take some time, not only in the month of November but each and every day, to give thanks to God Almighty for the countless blessings He has showered upon you—especially during this unprecedented pandemic era when seemingly it is so difficult to try and find reasons to be thankful. And by all means, hold fast to your confession, your hope, your joy and your faith in Jesus!

Let us prayerfully reflect on the questions and statements the Apostle Paul declares in his letter to the Church in Rome,

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”  
(Romans 8:35-39).

Happy Thanksgiving! I remain gratefully yours in the service of the Lord!

Shalom to you now,

*Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden*

