



# LIGHTHOUSE

November 2020

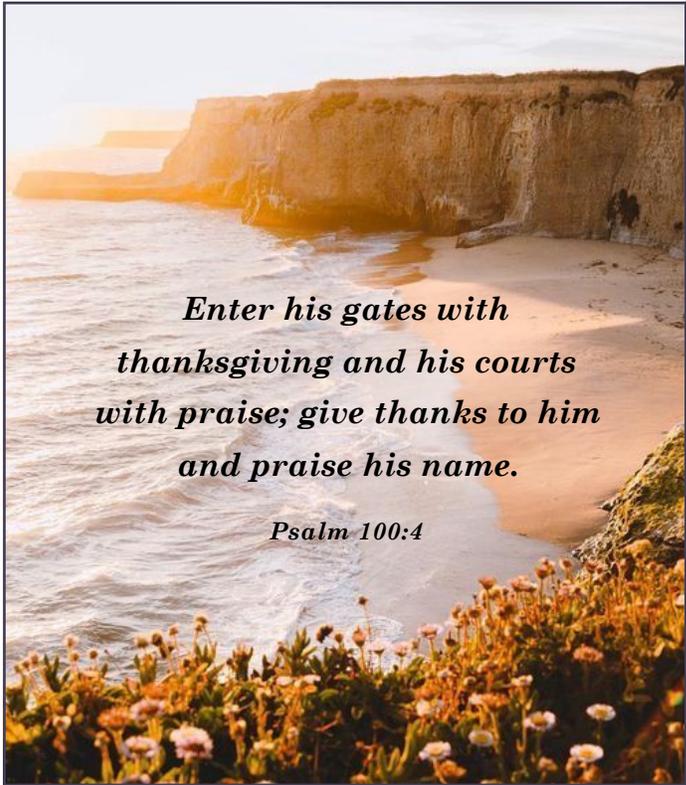
Horeb Mar Thoma Church, Los Angeles  
12741 Main Street, Garden Grove, CA 92840

## COLOSSIANS 3: 12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

NIV



*Enter his gates with  
thanksgiving and his courts  
with praise; give thanks to him  
and praise his name.*

*Psalm 100:4*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, all Worship Services and events will continue to be conducted online for the month of November.**

**Please find more information on Page 5.**



Dear Horeb Family,

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We've entered into the month of November – this year seems to have gone by so fast, and what a year it has been. The global COVID-19 pandemic drastically affected all areas of our life – education, work culture, social life, our worship life – and we've been dealing with its impact in many ways. The wildfires that broke out near the areas of residence of a good number of our families add on what's been the worst fire year in California's history and have only added onto this challenging season. The Bible tells us, *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). As we find the weather becoming cooler, the nights becoming longer, dried leaves covering our backyard, this time of year all the more reminds us of the changing seasons of life. From the good to the bad, from the comfortable to the challenging, everything happens in its appointed time according to the great will and purpose of God. As this particular season continues to challenge us, let us all the more draw close to the Lord in faith and trust that God is using all the seasons of our lives to accomplish His purposes and for our good. And as we get closer to this year's Thanksgiving Day, let us look back at the past year and be thankful – Let's thank and praise our Heavenly Father for the wonderful ways we have been sustained and kept safe. God has been so gracious to us, strengthened and blessed us during these difficult times.

As the Mar Thoma Church enters into a new season, a new era of its witness and mission, let's also thank and praise God for the blessed life and ministry of our Late His Grace the Most Rev. Dr.

Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan. Thirumeni's visionary leadership and spiritual stewardship as the Metropolitan during the last 13 years was indeed a blessing for the growth and development of our Church all over the world. As we pay tribute to the blessed memory of our late Metropolitan Thirumeni, let us take to heart what Thirumeni would repeatedly remind the people: *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"* (Micah 6:8). Let us especially uphold our Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Suffragan Metropolitan in our prayers as preparations are being made to elevate Thirumeni as the new Metropolitan on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month. May God strengthen and bless Thirumeni to meaningfully guide our Church forward in the light of Christ for the glory of God. And with the National Elections just around the corner, let us commit our nation and its leadership into God's hands.

As we celebrate World Sunday School Day on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, let's thank God for the ministry of our Horeb Sunday School. Horeb is blessed to have such a vibrant Sunday School, and the commitment of our Sunday School teachers for "making better children for the world" must be acknowledged and appreciated.

Grateful for your support and prayerful cooperation in the life and ministry of the parish. May God strengthen us in these days ahead to all the more unite in loving and serving God, one another, and beyond. May the Good Lord continue to bless each and every one of us.

With love and prayers,

**Rev. Arun Samuel Varghese**

**BLESSED FATHER, GO IN PEACE...**  
**Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan**



**JUNE 27, 1931 - OCTOBER 18, 2020**

**XXI Mar Thoma of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church**

**May Thirumeni rest in peace & rise in glory!**

*“Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you.  
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith”*

*Hebrews 13:7*



**Build Shoeboxes Online!**  
A *contactless* way to prepare shoebox gifts!

Select gifts • Attach notes and photos • Set online goals

[samaritanspurse.org/occ](https://samaritanspurse.org/occ)

*“Let Your glory be over all the earth!” —Psalm 108:5 (ESV)*

VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE.



**Operation Christmas Child is still a go!**

'Tis the season.. Horeb can still participate in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox collections this year! The organization is offering the option to digitally pack a shoebox gift online by simply selecting items from their website and they will pack the gift for you for a suggested donation of \$25.

If families wish to pack their own personalized shoeboxes like usual, many drop-off locations are still open and safely accepting during the collection week. We encourage families to follow the gift guidelines and drop off themselves since we cannot collect at church. More information will be sent via email and can be found on their website.

**COLLECTION WEEK DEADLINE: November 16th - 23rd**



# Happy Thanksgiving... Seriously??

By Binoy Abraham

Wow!! What a year this has been. As we approach the holiday season, especially Thanksgiving, I was wondering if I can be thankful for anything this year. I personally lost 3 uncles who had a close bond with me. The massive global deaths due to COVID19 and natural calamities. The crashing of the global economy. The falsehood and lies talked in the Elections. The evil of racial unrest. The growth of Mental Health illness and the list continues. However, there were some good things about 2020 too: We all become home bound and families stayed together and prayed together. The work from home setup helped reduce the anxieties caused by our daily commutes. Although the church doors closed, God divinely united the believers through Zoom prayers. So, as you can see there was a heavy balancing act of God of pruning and cleaning displayed this year.

Whenever I am faced with a challenging situation, I always turn to the Bible to see what it has to say. The verse that makes the rounds during this time of the year is Philippians 4:6. It's an oft memorized and quoted verse. According to me this verse should be nicknamed – The “Attitude Verse”. Why so? If you look closely the verse can be broken into 3 attitudes.

“Be Anxious about nothing” **Attitude 1:** Worry Less.

“But in **everything** by **Prayer and Supplication**” **Attitude 2:** Be Mindful and prayerful of every situation. Don't sleep through life on cruise control or on Autopilot (Tesla owners) for we have seen it leads to bad outcomes including death.

“with **thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God”

**Attitude 3:** The most important attitude is “Be Thankful”. Now why was thanksgiving emphasized, the verse could have just been don't worry pray to God and all will be ok. Why add “Thanksgiving”, it is because we live in God's Grace economy. We deserve nothing and all that we have is because He is Good, and our Father doesn't hold back anything from us even sacrificing His Only Son so that we could live for eternity with HIM. Take a moment and let this sink in and if it really hits our heart then the only natural response would be to give thanks. This verse like other verses in the Bible have stood the test of time. They have seen pandemics come and go, natural calamities ravage the earth and other evils cast their spells, but through it all, the WORD has NOT BEEN SHAKEN. So back to the question I started with, can we really be Thankful in 2020 and the answer is YES, because we are still alive and our HOPE is in the Sovereign GOD, His Loving Son and His Glorious Spirit. So, for the remaining days of 2020 lets make sure we make it a point to worry less, be mindful/prayerful of every situation and above all give Thanks to God.

Happy Thanksgiving Horeb Family!!

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

*All links to the Zoom worship services and teleconference info will be provided via email.*

SUN NOV 1	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - Zoom Praise and Worship - Zoom Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom; <i>World Sunday School Day</i>
MON NOV 2	5:30pm - 6:30pm	Monthly Diocesan MTVEA Prayer - Zoom
WED NOV 4	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - Zoom
THU NOV 5	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Executive Committee Meeting - Zoom
SAT NOV 7	6:00pm	Virtual Family Night & Fundraiser - Zoom; <i>Info via email</i>
SUN NOV 8	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School- Zoom Praise and Worship - Zoom Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom
TUE NOV 10	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
WED NOV 11	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - Zoom
FRI NOV 13	7:00pm - 8:30pm	South Area Prayer - Zoom
SAT NOV 14	6:00pm - 7:30pm	West Area Prayer - Zoom
SUN NOV 15	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - Zoom Praise and Worship - Zoom Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom
TUE NOV 17	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
WED NOV 18	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - Zoom
FRI NOV 20	7:00pm - 8:30pm	East Area Prayer - Zoom
SAT NOV 21	11:00am - 12:30pm	Sevika Sangham Meeting - Zoom
SUN NOV 22	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - Zoom Praise and Worship - Zoom Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom
TUE NOV 24	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
WED NOV 25	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Tele Prayer - Zoom
SAT NOV 28	10:00am - 3:30pm	Western Regional Sunday School One-Day Retreat - <i>Info via email</i>
SUN NOV 29	8:45am - 10:15am 10:15am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday School - Zoom Praise and Worship - Zoom Online Worship Service (English) - Zoom



### IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

## Mr. A James

*Mr. A James, older brother of John Uncle (San Diego), passed away on October 19th at 92 years old in Mavelikara, Kerala. Let us uphold the family in our prayers and ask our Almighty God to comfort them during this time.*

Please take a moment to make contributions to the church via Zelle; this includes Sunday offertory, birthday and wedding offertory, subscriptions, etc. Donations can quickly be made via your mobile bank app or through online banking. The church email for Zelle is [treasurer@horebmtc.org](mailto:treasurer@horebmtc.org) or checks can be sent to our Treasurer, Abey Mathews.

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