

# BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

Senior Adults Newsletter  
Christ Covenant Church  
March 2021



## GRACE TO YOU

by  
Pastor Bruce Creswell

### FROM ONE PASTOR TO ANOTHER PASTOR

*Occasionally, I come across other pastors' articles written to their flock that are worth sharing. This article from Pastor Bob Bjerkaas of the Church in the Canyon (PCA) in California, got my attention. Do you know what the word, "SCHADENFREUDE" means? I have never heard the word, "SCHADENFREUDE" used in conversation, although, I am familiar with the sin.*

*Trust you will find Pastor Bob's article instructive and edifying as I have!*  
-Pastor Bruce

### Schadenfreude – Not a Pretty Look

One of the things that I love about the English language is the way in which it freely borrows words from other cultures and languages in its quest for clarity and specificity. From the French language we have *bon voyage* and *faux pas*. From the Italian, *prima donna*. The Greek language gives us *hoi polloi*. Yiddish offers *kitsch*. *Aficionado* comes from Spanish. Latin is the source for phrases like *pro bono* and *bona fide*. All of these words, technically called loan words, come more or less directly from their original cultural and linguistic contexts because the receiving language or culture doesn't already have a single word or conventionally understood phrase that is as clear and specific as the foreign option. One such loan word that has come to mind in my studies on the book of Job is from the German language: *schadenfreude*.

Schadenfreude is the feeling of pleasure one gets when someone they do not like experiences misfortune. From the German word *schaden* (which means damage) and *freude* (which means joy). The word means to rejoice at damage done to another. [1] We live in a cultural moment in which schadenfreude is all too common. We see it when folks are glad that a star athlete from an opposing team is injured or unable to compete due to COVID. Politics is rife with it – your opponent's pain is your pleasure. Pastorally I see it in the smirking smugness some express when someone who hurts them "gets what they deserve."

So, what does this have to do with book of Job?

Well, Job is introduced to us as a man who is "blameless and upright, who feared God and turned away from evil." (Job 1:1) God himself says of Job, "there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil." (Job 1:8). In short, Job is, by the Lord's own assessment, the godliest man alive in his day. Nonetheless, Job suffers greatly, and the balance of the book of Job consists of Job's rather intense and polarized conversation about the cause of his suffering that he has with his three friends.

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After his three friends have exhausted their arguments against Job, Job offers a lengthy speech in his own defense which concludes with a final appeal in Job 31. In this last chapter of Job's speech, the godly man defends his integrity by offering a list of sins that he has not committed – sins which, had he committed them, might have warranted his great and many afflictions.

In Job 31:29 Job says: *"If I have rejoiced at the ruin of him who hated me, or exulted when evil overtook him. I have not let my mouth sin by asking for his life with a curse."*

When Job considered repugnant sins which might account for a punishment as severe as the suffering he was experiencing, schadenfreude made the list. Would it make your list? Have you rejoiced at the ruin of someone who hurt you? Or experienced pleasure at some opponent's misfortune?

We live in very polarized times. In a culture in which outrage and disrespect for others are becoming virtuous when expressed towards your opposites, schadenfreude is there as well. Do you resent your enemy's successes, and hope for their ruin? When they suffer do you smile inwardly? The example of Job anticipates the teaching of Jesus: Love your enemies. Bless those who curse you. (Luke 6:27-28) Who do you need to bless today?

[1] *American Heritage Dictionary*, s.v. "Schadenfreude."

## HYMN HISTORY

*Submitted by Peggy Dear*

### THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

Maltbie Babcock was an athlete. An outstanding baseball pitcher and a champion swimmer, he kept himself in shape by running. When he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Lockport, New York, he would run in the early morning to the brow of a hill two miles away and look over at Lake Ontario.

Before he left, he would tell his church staff, "I am going out to see my Father's world." From the brow of the hill, he would run two more miles to a deep ravine where as many as forty different species of birds found sanctuary. Then he would run back.

Babcock loved music as well as athletics and nature. He enjoyed playing the organ, piano, and violin, so it is not strange that he should write a hymn extolling God's handiwork in nature. There are good lines to memorize in this hymn, lines to remember when the world seems to be going haywire. "This is my Father's world, / O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, / God is the Ruler yet."

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas-  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,  
The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white,  
Declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world:  
He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,  
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world,  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world:  
The battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and heav'n be one.

*Maltbie Davenport Babcock (1858-1901)*

## MARCH LUNCHEON

**Date: Friday, March 5, 2021**  
**Social time 11:45 am / Lunch 12:00 pm**  
**Lower CLC Youth Space**  
**Speaker: Ben Traynor, Intern**

Both auditoriums in the lower CLC will be used for seating, with 30 per room to ensure proper spacing. At this time, we anticipate seating 5 per table.

Menu: Loaded potato soup with toppings, side salad, bread, dessert, sweet tea, water.

To plan for the correct number of people, please RSVP by the Friday prior on the SignUp Genius link or directly to Jenny Blackmon, ministry administrator (704-708-6104).

A \$3 donation per person to cover food costs is appreciated.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0444aaaf2ea2fc1-march1>

## SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, March 5	Senior Adult Luncheon
Sunday, April 4	EASTER!
Friday, April 9	Senior Adult Luncheon
Friday, May 7	JAARS Day with Lunch
Friday, June 4	Senior Adult Luncheon
October 5-8	Retreat at Bonclarken

## MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCH

*Submitted by Dave Ruths*

The Senior Men's monthly lunch may resume in March. We will continue to watch local data and consider vaccination stats of our men. I need to further check Park Place Restaurant regarding "our room" for March. It could be needful to switch to third Thursday. Further info will be e-mailed at least a week in advance of March 18/19.

Keep building your Park Place appetites and feasting on the Lord.

## NEW COMPUTER VIRUS The NILE Virus (Type C)

*Submitted by Jenny Blackmon*



Even the most advanced computer programs from Norton, McAfee, and others, cannot take care of this one. It appears to target the older population. The lockdown seems to increase chances of being affected.

### Virus Symptoms...

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice. *(Done that)*
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail. *(That too)*
3. Causes you to send an e-mail to the wrong person. *(Yup)*
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you. *(Ah-ha)*
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment. *(Done that)*
6. Causes you to hit SEND before you have finished. *(Oh no, not again!)*
7. Causes you to hit DELETE instead of SEND. *(Hate that)*
8. Causes you to hit SEND when you should DELETE. *(Now what?)*

**\*\*This virus is called the C-NILE Virus**

A lot of us have already been inflicted with this disease and unfortunately, as we age it gets worse.

And if you can't admit to doing any of the above, you've obviously caught the other strain: the **D-NILE Virus**.

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

Articles for the April newsletter are due to Jane Yancey no later than March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please send them to her at [jane@yancey.com](mailto:jane@yancey.com)

# Book Review

By Chris Williams

## The Miracle of the Cell

by Michael Denton

Discovery Institute Press, 2020

*"...For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth." Psalm 139:13-15*

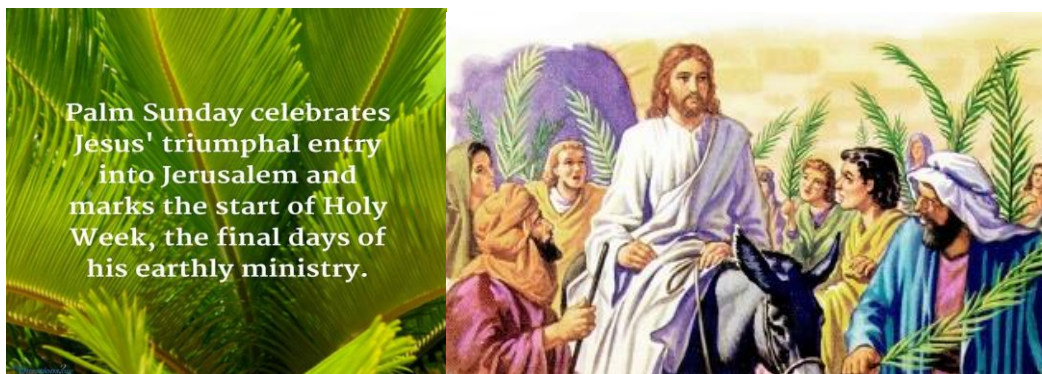
This book was named in World Magazine's annual book of the year issue and was given "honorable mention." In their review, they said Denton indirectly elucidates Psalm 139:14, as quoted above, by describing the vast separation between random chemicals in the environment and the highly complex yet ordered structure of living cells; a testimony to God's intentional, planned creation and to His glory.

The author analyzes the properties of four elements: Carbon, Oxygen, Nitrogen, and Hydrogen, and shows how these are perfectly made to fit with the requirements for life. He is pointing to intentional design in the structure and function of living cells. Living things are composed of these key elements plus a few others that have precisely the required properties to make life possible. The complexity and harmony is staggering. On page 16 he notes, "...the cosmos feels infinitely large, the atomic realm infinitely small, the cell feels infinitely complex." Every page of the book reveals more of the impossibility of life being the product of random events; clearly there is intricate design underlying all of biology.

Such books can be difficult to get through. But if you have a little knowledge of chemistry, it is possible. Of course, I skipped over or quickly scanned some of the more difficult parts when Denton gets technical. It does not actually matter much because his message comes through loud and clear.

From a Christian perspective the evidence in science for intelligent design is unnecessary. No unbeliever will be converted to faith in Jesus Christ simply by observing the pattern of design in nature, and the Bible alone is our source of truth regarding the origin of life. Nevertheless, the book is an encouraging reinforcement of things we already believe. God invented it all. Furthermore, these facts in nature become the occasion for returning awe and gratitude to God because of the amazing life on earth.

The world tries to knock down Biblical revelation using science as a weapon, but as investigations proceed the truth is ever more evident: God made it all.



**Sunday, March 28, 2021**

**Coram Deo Sunday School Class:**

Currently meets in the Sanctuary on  
Thursdays at 4:00 pm and is also  
live-streamed on

You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/christcovenantpres>

Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/christcovenantchurch>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristCovenantChurchPCA/>

**Pastor on Call:**

*The Pastor-on-Call line will no longer be in service.  
If you need immediate pastoral assistance, please  
contact your Shepherding Elder. Thank you!*

**Pastor of Senior Adults and Visitation:**

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**Christ Covenant Church**

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**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

2 - Butch Barkman  
2 - Bette McClain  
4 - Harriett Carney  
6 - Beth Sulzmann  
11 - Helen Brown  
11 - Donn Toney  
12 - Norm Petty  
14 - Tom Theyson  
16 - David Pacey  
20 - Al Reinken  
27 - Norma Kirkpatrick  
27 - Cameron Ely

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

4 - Robert and Rosemary Adams  
8 - Daniel and Barbara Daloia  
14 - Joe and Judy Massengill  
18 - Lance and Donna Whitehead  
21 - Steve and Susan Sperry