

VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS

January 2019

Greetings,

The first month of the year is named after the Roman god, Janus. He was revered as the god of time and transitions, beginnings and endings. Janus was commonly depicted facing in both directions. He looked back to the past at the same time as looking forward to the future.

New years tend to make us do likewise. We ponder the previous twelve months whilst we also wonder what lies ahead. The past might have been a time of worry and sadness we are glad to leave behind – or just the opposite. The future also might fill us with hope or with anxiety and uncertainty.

Writing in the middle of the Second World War, CS Lewis cautioned against excessive fretting about times past or times to come. Instead, he reminded readers that God is most fully present in the here and now.ⁱ (God inhabits the perpetual “Now”, Lewis argued in another text.ⁱⁱ)

This is good news! It means that, whatever 2019 brings, God will be right there with us. He will increase our joy in the good times and She will see us safely through the times of trial.

For many of us, the scariest part of the future is the possibility of change. Church folk are no exception – we tend to prefer how things used to be. This despite the fact that we serve a God who confidently proclaims, “I am making all things new.”ⁱⁱⁱ Here at CBC, we decided that our newsletter was in need of some Divine newness. So we hope you like the new format. If you know anyone who would like to receive either the print or digital versions please let us know. We like spreading news about our church!

Wishing you a blessed 2019,

Brenda

ⁱ CS Lewis, “The Screwtape Letters,” Zondervan Publishing, 2001, p.76

ⁱⁱ *ibid.*, “Mere Christianity,” Collier Books, 1960, p.148

ⁱⁱⁱ Revelation 21:5