

CHRIST'S CHURCH AT LOWHILL

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WHERE GOD IS STILL SPEAKING...

“Thou Art the Christ”

Matthew 16:13-16

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Word Study notes: *Christ*

The Hebrew word for *Messiah* (meaning “anointed one”) occurs 39 times in the Hebrew scriptures (what we commonly call the Old Testament; the collection of writings, including the prophets, proverbs, and Psalms considered to be Scripture by both Jews and Christians).

280 years before the birth of Christ, the Old Testament was translated into Greek. In every instance, the word *Messiah* was rendered as its Greek equivalent, *Kristos*. *Christ* is the equivalent English word. The Greek translation of the Old Testament is an important link between early Hebrew thought and the more global setting we see coming to the fore during the life of Jesus and in the days of the early church.

Christians regard Jesus as the promised anointed one of God foretold by the Hebrew prophets, and as the Son of God, two distinct but related identifications in Christian thought.

A traditional rendering of Peter’s confession “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” is the familiar and poetic “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

“We Are The Church”

Acts 2:42

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Philippians 2:1-2:

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”

Word study notes: *Church*

The English word church comes through Germanic words meaning “of the Lord” or “belonging to the Lord.” These Germanic roots are themselves translations of the Greek word *kuriakē*, meaning “of the Lord.” Many of the instances of the word “church” in the New, however, are translations of the word *ecclesia*, which means “called forth,” “called out,” and carries with it the notion of citizens of a community gathering in assembly. Our modern usage of *church* reflects a theologically sound combination of these meanings.

With that said, however, the Greek term *koinonia*, used 20 times in the New Testament, more clearly refines the power and purpose of the *ecclesia*. *Koinonia* denotes fellowship, community, and relationship.

(Message notes and word study, August, 27, 2017)