

The Train of Life

By Chaplain Paul D. Vescio (July 4, 2009)

O great horse of iron and steel, spewing smoke and breathing fire, eating wood and coal, drinking water, releasing steam high into the air, rolling free down your tracks.

Locomotive of lightning, thunder, and steel, your cars you pull like so many little children holding hands all in a row. Passengers delight in all of your power and speed.

The conductor calls out, **“Tickets, please!”**

Some tickets lead us on a path of righteousness, and still others on a one-way journey straight into hell.

As we continue to travel down the narrow track, light turns into dusk, then into the darkness of night. The caboose passes by, laughing and singing, and is gone in the blink of an eye.

Then, entering a tunnel—dark and void of light—our train comes to a sudden stop. Some passengers are let off—right into outer darkness. **Why?**

Starting once again on our way, passing through time and space, I begin to question: **Where? When? How? And why?**

Moving ever faster now, time seems to stand still and bend. A long, dark night gives way to the sweet morning light.

Coming into the station, it is the dawning of a brand-new and glorious day. As the train comes to a rolling stop, we are told to leave all of our belongings behind. We won't be needing them anymore.

Stepping off the train, I can now see why. For standing before me is a Kingdom of light, shining so heavenly bright: love, song, gates of pearly white. A million angels stand at attention, singing, as ten thousand doves take flight.

People cheer and sing, laugh and shout. All the Saints help the new arrivals off the train.

Then the Engineer steps out and into our sight: with hands and feet scarred, a crown of thorns, a flowing white robe, and snow-white hair. He says,

“Welcome home, my good and faithful children. I love you.”

And so, my faithful friends, always remember: when the train of life comes to the end of its journey, make sure you have the ticket of salvation and righteousness, for it will surely save your life.

In Christ Yeshua's holy name I pray... **Amen.**

(John 14:27)

John 3:16 is truly our heavenly ticket for life.



JOHN 3:16 For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life...Amen