

2019-12-25 Our part in Christmas



First Hymn

1. Hymn. 522

Lift up the door, the mighty gates, / Behold, the King of Glory waits! / Our King of kings is drawing near; / The Maker of the world is here. / Life and salvation He will bring, / A cause for us to gladly sing! / We sing our praise to You, / Creator, wise and true. /

A God of help, integrity, / Whose chariot's humility, / His kingly crown is holiness, / His scepter, mercy, all to bless – / To ev'ry woe an end He'll bring; / A cause for us to gladly sing! / We thank You, Spirit true, / For mighty deeds from You. /

Oh, bless the nation, bless the town, / That holds this King in high renown. / Oh, bless alike the heart and mind / Whose love for God together bind. / His righteousness will always bring / A cause for us to gladly sing! / Exalt our God above-- / Who comforts with pure love.



The readings, from our Pastor: The Holy Bible and the Christian Science textbook "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures", by Mary Baker Eddy:



The Holy Bible

1. Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

2. Isa. 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

3. Matt. 2:1, 2, 9 and

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is

born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. ...

... and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

4. Isa. 42:1–4

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

5. Matt. 4:23; 5:1–12, 14–20

¶ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. ...

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. ...

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. ¶ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

6. Matt. 10:26, 27, 29–32

Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. ...

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

7. John 7:37–41 (to .)

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) ¶ Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. ...

8. Rev. 21:3–7

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

9. John 14:27 (to 1st .)

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. ...



Science and Health

1. SH 99:14–15

Christian Science teaches only that which is spiritual and divine, and not human.

2. SH 26:10

The Christ was the Spirit which Jesus implied in his own statements: “I am the way, the truth, and the life;” “I and my Father are one.” This Christ, or divinity of the man Jesus, was his divine nature, the godliness which animated him. Divine Truth, Life, and Love gave Jesus authority over sin, sickness,

Christ's
demonstration

and death. His mission was to reveal the Science of celestial being, to prove what God is and what He does for man.

3. SH 18:3–5

Jesus of Nazareth taught and demonstrated man's oneness with the Father, and for this we owe him endless homage.

4. SH 96:12, 27–4

This material world is even now becoming the arena for conflicting forces. On one side there will be discord and dismay; on the other side there will be Science and peace. The breaking up of material beliefs may seem to be famine and pestilence, want and woe, sin, sickness, and death, which assume new phases until their nothingness appears. These disturbances will continue until the end of error, when all discord will be swallowed up in spiritual Truth. ...

Arena of
contest

... As material knowledge diminishes and spiritual understanding increases, real objects will be apprehended mentally instead of materially.

Millennial
glory

During this final conflict, wicked minds will endeavor to find means by which to accomplish more evil; but those who discern Christian Science will hold crime in check. They will aid in the ejection of error. They will maintain law and order, and cheerfully await the certainty of ultimate perfection.

5. SH 546:23–26

Christian Science is dawning upon a material age. The great spiritual facts of being, like rays of light, shine in the darkness, though the darkness, comprehending them not, may deny their reality.

Dawning of
spiritual facts

6. SH 298:2–4, 8–10

Life, Truth, and Love are the realities of divine Science. They dawn in faith and glow full-orbed in spiritual understanding. ...

What is termed material sense can report only a mortal temporary sense of things, whereas spiritual sense can bear witness only to Truth.

7. SH 149:28–31; 150:4

Whatever guides thought spiritually benefits mind and body. We need to understand the affirmations of divine Science, dismiss superstition, and demonstrate truth according to Christ. ...

Tests in
our day

To-day the healing power of Truth is widely demonstrated as an immanent, eternal Science, instead of a phenomenal exhibition. Its appearing is the coming anew of the gospel of “on earth peace, good-will toward men.” This coming, as was promised by the Master, is for its establishment as a permanent dispensation among men; but the mission of Christian Science now, as in the time of its earlier demonstration, is not primarily one of physical healing. Now, as

The main
purpose

then, signs and wonders are wrought in the metaphysical healing of physical disease; but these signs are only to demonstrate its divine origin, — to attest the reality of the higher mission of the Christ-power to take away the sins of the world.

8. SH 264:21–31 Sin; 265:3–15

Sin is unsustained by Truth, and sickness and death were overcome by Jesus, who proved them to be forms of error. Spiritual living and blessedness are the only evidences, by which we can recognize true existence and feel the unspeakable peace which comes from an all-absorbing spiritual love.

Spiritual
proofs of
existence

When we learn the way in Christian Science and recognize man's spiritual being, we shall behold and understand God's creation, — all the glories of earth and heaven and man.

... Man understands spiritual existence in proportion as his treasures of Truth and Love are enlarged. Mortals must gravitate Godward, their affections and aims grow spiritual, — they must near the broader interpretations of being, and gain some proper sense of the infinite, — in order that sin and mortality may be put off.

Godward
gravitation

This scientific sense of being, forsaking matter for Spirit, by no means suggests man's absorption into Deity and the loss of his identity, but confers upon man enlarged individuality, a wider sphere of thought and action, a more expansive love, a higher and more permanent peace.

9. SH 322:26–12

The sharp experiences of belief in the supposititious life of matter, as well as our disappointments and ceaseless woes, turn us like tired children to the arms of divine Love. Then we begin to learn Life in divine Science. Without this process of weaning, “Canst thou by searching find out God?” It is easier to desire Truth than to rid one's self of error. Mortals may seek the understanding of Christian Science, but they will not be able to glean from Christian Science the facts of being without striving for them. This strife consists in the endeavor to forsake error of every kind and to possess no other consciousness but good.

Uses of
suffering

Through the wholesome chastisements of Love, we are helped onward in the march towards righteousness, peace, and purity, which are the landmarks of Science. Beholding the infinite tasks of truth, we pause, — wait on God. Then we push onward, until boundless thought walks enraptured, and conception unconfined is winged to reach the divine glory.

A bright
outlook

10. SH 506:11–12, 18

The calm and exalted thought or spiritual apprehension is at peace. ...

Spirit, God, gathers unformed thoughts into their proper channels, and unfolds these

thoughts, even as He opens the petals of a holy purpose in order that the purpose may appear.

Unfolding
of thoughts

11. SH 97:29–32; 98:4–7

Christianity is again demonstrating the Life that is Truth, and the Truth that is Life, by the apostolic work of casting out error and healing the sick. ...

Christianity
still rejected

The prophet of to-day beholds in the mental horizon the signs of these times, the reappearance of the Christianity which heals the sick and destroys error, and no other sign shall be given.

Spiritual fore-
shadowings

12. SH 109:24

When a new spiritual idea is borne to earth, the prophetic Scripture of Isaiah is renewedly fulfilled: “Unto us a child is born, . . . and his name shall be called Wonderful.”

13. SH 463:14–16

The new idea, conceived and born of Truth and Love, is clad in white garments. Its beginning will be meek, its growth sturdy, and its maturity undecaying.

14. SH 332:9 Jesus (only)

... Jesus was born of Mary.

15. SH 361:4–5

Christ, as the true spiritual idea, is the ideal of God now and forever, here and everywhere.



Second and Third Hymn

2. Hymn. 511

It came upon the midnight clear, / That glorious song of old, / The angels, bending near
the earth, / Their wondrous story told / Of peace on earth, good will to men, / From
heaven's all-gracious King; / The world in solemn stillness lay / To hear the angels
sing. /

O ye beneath life's crushing load / Whose forms are bending low, / Who toil along the
climbing way / With painful steps and slow; / Look now, for glad and golden hours /
Come swiftly on the wing; / O rest beside the weary road, / And hear the angels sing. /

For lo, the days are hastening on, / By prophets seen of old, / When with the ever-
circling years / Shall come the time foretold; / When the new heaven and earth shall
own / The Prince of Peace their King, / And all the world send back the song / Which
now the angels sing.

3. Hymn. 276

Peace be to this congregation; / Peace to every heart therein; / Peace, the earnest of salvation; / Peace, the fruit of conquered sin; / Peace, that speaks the heavenly Giver; / Peace, to worldly minds unknown; / Peace, that floweth as a river / From th' eternal source alone. /

O Thou God of peace, be near us, / Fix within our hearts Thy home; / With Thy bright appearing cheer us, / In Thy blessed freedom come. / Come with all Thy revelations, / Truth which we so long have sought; / Come with Thy deep consolations, / Peace of God which passeth thought.

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