

20210407 The Christ of Love

Apr 07 2021



📄 Thank you for previewing our Wednesday service readings. The *Bible* and our textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, are our pastor and the following citations from each comprise our readings. The citations below are from the King James Version of the Bible. The First Reader has elected to read the same verses from the NLT (New Living Translation) followed by the selections from our textbook.

The theme for our reading is "The Christ of Love". Inspiration for this theme is from an article by Mary Baker Eddy, page 354:15 of "The First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany" and I Cor.13 of Holy Bible

1. Hymn. 330:3

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

Words: Henry W. Baker*

Music: John B. Dykes

2. Hymn. 597:1

Where charity and love abide,
We know that God is there,
And Christ has gathered us as one
To love the living God.

Words: Kevin McCarter

Music: Lucius Chapin

3. Hymn. 593:3

What, then, can we give You in praise for our journey,
When all the earth's treasures were Yours from the start?
We offer our labor, our love for our neighbors,
Our gifts and the worship of each hand and heart.

Words: original first line "In Joyful Thanksgiving," alt.

Music: Valerius's *Nederlandsch Gedenck-clanck*, 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser, alt.

1. John 20:30, 31

- 30 ¶ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:
- 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

2. I Cor. 13:1–13

- 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
- 2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.
- 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.
- 4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
- 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
- 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
- 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
- 8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.
- 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.
- 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done

away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

3. Mic. 6:8

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

4. Zeph. 3:17–20

17 The Lord thy God in the midst of thee *is* mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

18 I will gather *them that are* sorrowful for the solemn assembly, *who* are of thee, *to whom* the reproach of it *was* a burden.

19 Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

20 At that time will I bring you *again*, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord.

5. Luke 16:13

13 ¶ No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

6. II Cor. 13:4 (to 1st .)

4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. ...

7. Col. 1:15–22

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth,

visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

8. I John 1:1–4; 2:12–14

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

9. I John 4:9–19

- 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.
- 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.
- 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
- 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
- 13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
- 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.
- 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.
- 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.
- 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.
- 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
- 19 We love him, because he first loved us.

1. SH 35:19–30

- Our baptism is a purification from all error. Our church is built on the divine Principle, Love. We can
- 21 unite with this church only as we are new-born of Spirit, as we reach the Life which is Truth and the Truth which is Life by bringing forth
- 24 the fruits of Love, — casting out error and healing the sick. Our Eucharist is spiritual communion with the one God. Our bread, “which cometh down from heaven,”
- 27 is Truth. Our cup is the cross. Our wine the inspiration of Love, the draught our Master drank and com-

Spiritual
Eucharist

mended to his followers.

30 The design of Love is to reform the sinner.

2. SH 342:21

21 Christian Science awakens the sinner, reclaims the infidel, and raises from the couch of pain the helpless invalid. It speaks to the dumb the words of

24 Truth, and they answer with rejoicing. It causes the deaf to hear, the lame to walk, and the blind to see. Who would be the first to disown the Christli-
27 ness of good works, when our Master says, “By their fruits ye shall know them”?

Argument of
good works

3. SH 332:9–17 Christ, 19, 23 He; 333:9–23, 26–27

9 Christ is the true idea voicing good, the divine message from God to men speaking to the human consciousness. The Christ
12 is incorporeal, spiritual, — yea, the divine image and likeness, dispelling the illusions of the senses; the Way, the Truth, and the Life, healing the sick and
15 casting out evils, destroying sin, disease, and death. As Paul says: “There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

The Son
of God

X. Jesus demonstrated Christ; he proved that Christ is the divine idea of God — the Holy Ghost,
21 or Comforter, revealing the divine Principle, Love, and leading into all truth.

Holy Ghost
or Comforter

He was appointed
24 to speak God's word and to appear to mortals in such a form of humanity as they could understand as well as perceive. Mary's conception of

Christ
Jesus

27 him was spiritual, for only purity could reflect Truth
and Love, which were plainly incarnate in the good and
pure Christ Jesus. He expressed the highest type of
30 divinity, which a fleshly form could express in that age.
Into the real and ideal man the fleshly element cannot
enter. Thus it is that Christ illustrates the coincidence,
1 or spiritual agreement, between God and man in His
image.

9 Christ expresses God's spiritual, eternal
nature. The name is synonymous with Messiah, and al-
ludes to the spirituality which is taught, illustrated, and
12 demonstrated in the life of which Christ Jesus was the
embodiment. The proper name of our Master in the
Greek was Jesus the Christ; but Christ Jesus better sig-
15 nifies the Godlike.

XIII. The advent of Jesus of Nazareth marked the
first century of the Christian era, but the Christ is
18 without beginning of years or end of days.
Throughout all generations both before and
after the Christian era, the Christ, as the spirit-
21 ual idea, — the reflection of God, — has come with some
measure of power and grace to all prepared to receive
Christ, Truth.

The divine
Principle
and idea

The divine image, idea, or Christ was, is, and
27 ever will be inseparable from the divine Principle, God.

4. SH 583:10

CHRIST. The divine manifestation of God, which comes
to the flesh to destroy incarnate error.

5. SH 589:16

JESUS. The highest human corporeal concept of the divine idea, rebuking and destroying error and bringing
18 to light man's immortality.

6. SH 473:4–5 (np)

The Science of Mind disposes of all evil. Truth, God, is not the father of error. Sin, sickness, and death are
6 to be classified as effects of error. Christ came to destroy the belief of sin. The God-principle is omnipresent and omnipotent. God is every-
9 where, and nothing apart from Him is present or has power. Christ is the ideal Truth, that comes to heal sickness and sin through Christian Science, and attributes
12 all power to God. Jesus is the name of the man who, more than all other men, has presented Christ, the true idea of God, healing the sick and the sinning and destroy-
15 ing the power of death. Jesus is the human man, and Christ is the divine idea; hence the duality of Jesus the Christ.

18 In an age of ecclesiastical despotism, Jesus introduced the teaching and practice of Christianity, affording the proof of Christianity's truth and love; but to
21 reach his example and to test its unerring Science according to his rule, healing sickness, sin, and death, a better understanding of God as divine Prin-
24 ciple, Love, rather than personality or the man Jesus, is required.

Jesus established what he said by demonstration,
27 thus making his acts of higher importance than his words. He proved what he taught. This is the Science of Christianity. Jesus *proved*

Christ the
ideal Truth

Jesus not
God

Jesus not
understood

30 the Principle, which heals the sick and casts out error,
to be divine. Few, however, except his students un-
derstood in the least his teachings and their glorious
1 proofs, — namely, that Life, Truth, and Love (the Prin-
ciple of this unacknowledged Science) destroy all error,
3 evil, disease, and death.

The reception accorded to Truth in the early Chris-
tian era is repeated to-day.