

Peace Haven

The Annual Meeting of Peace Haven Association
November 14, 2015

Cherishing the “Babe” of Christian Healing By Deborah Lyeth Master, CS

Mary Baker Eddy once said, “Welcome home! To your home in my heart!”

That’s what I feel here today — home. This St. Louis community of Christian Scientists has always been welcoming to those that come from near and far. I spent many years attending school here, and the local branch churches where I attended Sunday School certainly provided me with a deep and sincere understanding of Christian Science. I am so grateful. And, thank you for continuing that tradition of brotherly love. And, friends! I have so many that live here now or have passed through here over the years. This is a special place and it certainly feels like home. Thank you.

Our topic for this afternoon is an important one. The healing of hearts and minds, of soul and body, and finding sustainable peace is sought by all of us, even by all mankind. We know the world is searching and hungering for healing but looking through the eyes of material sense looks in all the wrong places. So, it becomes incumbent upon us, as practicing Christian Scientists, to live the Science of the Christ more deliberately, with more faith, and with more devotion to daily practice. It needs our commitment, which will bring forth more of the Christ in us, so that we demonstrate the healing power of Christian Science more convincingly to ourselves and to our fellow man.

We are all here this afternoon because we love Christian Science. We love its promise, and we love its comfort. When we look deep into it we find ourselves enveloped in pure, original Christianity. We find we can follow Jesus’ teachings, no matter how small our footsteps. It’s our love for the “Babe of Christian healing” that motivates us and sustains us. It’s God’s love

for us, expressed through Christian Science, that meets every human need with Christian demonstration.

Mary Baker Eddy, our dear and beloved Leader in Christian Science tells us, “In different ages the divine idea assumes different forms, according to humanity’s needs. In this age it assumes, more intelligently than ever before, the form of Christian healing. This is the babe we are to cherish. This is the babe that twines its loving arms about the neck of omnipotence, and calls forth infinite care from His loving heart” (Miscellaneous Writings p. 370: 12-18). Christian healing, the babe in our consciousness, calls forth “infinite care from His loving heart” emerging in demonstration.

Why does our Leader call Christian healing a “babe”?

A babe is the fulfillment of promise. It is a cause for rejoicing, of cheerful hope. Its development is accompanied by the faithful expectation of its appearance in our lives. We delight in preparing for its manifestation. And, we eagerly pray for its innate wisdom, purpose, and contribution, that it mature in confident giving and reward.

The word “cherish” means (and let’s think of it in terms of our longstanding relationship with God): to treat with tenderness and affection; to hold as dear; to embrace with affection; to give warmth, ease or comfort to; to foster and encourage; to cling the principles of virtue; to preserve religion in the heart; to treat in a manner to encourage growth by protection, aid, attendance, or supplying nourishment (Noah Webster, 1828).

This “infinite care from His loving heart” is how God cherishes us. We find evidence of this demonstrated in the activities of Peace Haven, and in all the various forms of Christian Science nursing. The authority for these activities is found in *The Manual of The Mother Church* by Mrs. Eddy. We can find references to nursing in the Bible and our Leader’s other writings but its authority is found in the *Manual* on page 49. This God-impelled and mandated authority for nursing is important for each of us to acknowledge and understand because it is of God, not of man. God has set before us an open door and no man can shut it! The *Manual* upholds the infallibility of absolute Christian Science, therefore, supporting and protecting our desire and right to have Christian Science treatment, and so, support the efficacy of Christian healing. It does this by providing a right place of security and temporary aid for our physical needs by a

visiting nurse, a private duty nurse, a home helper, or nurses serving in a facility. Each of these selfless and professional nurses has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice. They understand the practical wisdom necessary in the sick room, and they take proper care of the sick. I am reminding you of these things because Mrs. Eddy did not leave any student of Christian Science without everything necessary to advance us toward healing.

This same *Manual* authority for nursing also serves as a defense for us as it *removes* the seeming authority of mortal mind that would suggest Christian Scientists don't care for their sick or that other means of care may be more legitimate and expedient. Additionally, this Spirit-based authority reforms the unnatural inclination of a Christian Scientist to seek hygienic practices, medical treatment, and physical therapy.

Christian Scientists know that God is indeed a very present help in trouble, as He is always present. He is caring for us every moment and His care is sufficient to meet every one of our needs. We know He is the only power and that He doesn't share this power with anyone else. God is All-in-all. Because of His self-existent superiority over all material means and methods He does not and cannot comingle with them.

It is the lure of physical sense, of the fear or the love of life in matter that tempts and confuses one to think that there is help in material means. Christian healing means healing the way Christ Jesus did.

Mainstream Christianity, while loving Jesus, denies the most significant aspect of his work. When our Leader speaks of Christianity she does not leave the aspect of physical healing out but has restored its practical effectiveness, according to Christ Jesus. This fact separates us from all other methods of healing — in Christianity and out! So, for us to heal effectively, through the Science of the Christ, we cannot be moved by the world's "isms" that suggest God made mortal man to help His child through material means. Did Jesus teach his followers to use material methods? No, he turned them to God and God alone, giving them the power of the Spirit over all the power of the enemy. Then, utilizing this power today, we cannot be tempted by the suggestions of mortal minds to rely on what we should avoid, and think we can find safety where there is actually the danger of turning from Soul, God, to the dream of material sense.

If this power has diminished over time, what has caused its lessening? Was not the power always mental but realized in tangible proof in men's lives? The power to heal hasn't changed or lessened, only our practice and use of it has. If we love Christian healing and what it has done and continues to do, we should cherish it more, and practice and defend it more consistently. Then we will see healing more consistently in our lives.

We know God's omniscience is the wisdom that is peaceful, upholding His grace, the divine influence in our heart, always reflected in our life. His wisdom turns us to, and holds us in, His dwelling place so we seek and find all aid in Spirit, not in matter.

Mary Baker Eddy, speaking of unnatural inclinations, tells us this, "If students do not readily heal themselves, they should early call an experienced Christian Scientist to aid them. If they are unwilling to do this for themselves, they need only to know that error cannot produce this unnatural reluctance" (*Science and Health* 420:4). So, instead of consenting, we need a strong defense.

I am going to share a parable, of sorts, using football. It is the season after all! I raised four boys and they all loved the game! Whether we use the analogy of football, or of another sport or profession, the role of parent, friend, mentor, doesn't really matter. Preparing for and attaining excellence, in anything, requires similar preparation, practice, and demonstrated achievement. Our demonstration of Christian Science demands and deserves no less!

Consider this parable.

God is the owner. The entire team — Christian Scientists; the head coach — the Christ, who through the Pastor, the Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, together are the rule books; the *Church Manual*, *Prose Works*, and the periodicals instruct and support the players and the coaching team. The coaching team: The officers of The Mother Church, the Publishing Society, Christian Science practitioners, nurses, teachers, lecturers, and the Committee on Publication. And, our training field — Christian Science branch churches and the world.

There are tryouts in order to be on the team. The owner, God, and the head coach, the Christ, see both skilled players and those with potential, those with humility, selflessness and industry. The Christ calls the prepared and He prepares the called. Certain skills, attitude, and

department are demanded and must be maintained at all times— during practice on the field and off. A player must show up and must endure rigorous training, day after day. He must respect the authority of the coach, study the rule books, follow the directions, utilize all the tools and equipment, heed the coaches, and he must be a support to his fellow team mates. His progress and contribution must be apparent, giving testimony. In other words, He must love God first and foremost with all his heart and soul and mind, and love his neighbor as himself. This is cherishing the babe within.

But, what if the player doesn't give his all, or doesn't practice what he knows, or doesn't show up for practice, for whatever reason? He may find himself unsuccessful, on the sidelines, or he may quit the team. Further preparation and practice may be required. With the loving owner, God, through His Christ, the player will be shown the way forward. Trials, in the court of the Lord, never leave us where they find us. The verdict of our innocence will move us to new and higher attainments, proof of God's care. God comforts us, "Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee..." (Gen. 28:15). We are never beyond hope and healing.

Game Day: Demonstrating what we know, proving that Christian Science is not mere theory, but is demonstrable Science.

The offense: Having the ball they go straight for the goal — healing by being perfectly attuned to divine Science, where Spirit or the power of divine Love bear witness to the truth, this is the ultimatum, the scientific way and the healing is instantaneous (*Science and Health* 411:3).

The defense: Their job is not to just hold the line but to push back the other team's line of offense. Their job is to take the momentum, intercept the ball, and win their way past the goal line! Mrs. Eddy tells us, "To heal by argument, find the type of the ailment, get its name, and array your mental plea against the physical" (*Science and Health* 412:18-20). Type of ailment and name do not mean to get a diagnosis. In *Science and Health* Mrs. Eddy tells us, "A physical diagnosis of disease — since mortal mind must be the cause of disease — tends to induce disease." She prefaces this with, "The moral and spiritual facts of health, whispered into thought, produce very direct and marked effects on the body" (*Science and Health* 370:18). So, when healing by argument she tells us, "Mentally insist that harmony is the fact, and that sickness is a temporal dream. Realize the presence of health and the fact of harmonious being,

until the body corresponds with the normal conditions of health and harmony” (*Science and Health* 412:23).

When on the defense, healing by argument, we can’t play on both sides. We can’t play on different teams in one game. Choose who and what you are defending and stick with it!

A football player must give his all until the end of the game. He cannot give in to undisciplined thinking. He cannot give in to errors, missed opportunities, flags on the play, mistakes, frustration, self-righteousness, or condemnation. He cannot be concerned with what the fans, or others, are thinking about him or his game. He must stay focused on the game and the victory. He must listen to the coach, the Christ, and consistently follow his directions.

So, we go for the win and we do not stop until we have won. Mrs. Eddy tells us, “You have simply to preserve a scientific, positive sense of unity with your divine source, and daily demonstrate this...Wait patiently on illimitable Love, the Lord and giver of Life. Reflect this Life, and with it cometh the full power of being” (*Pulpit and Press* 4:9-11, 23-25). And a loved hymn tells us, “...And during the battle the victory claim, — Their trust in Thy truth is their daring, Salvation [health and prosperity] to all men declaring” (*Christian Science Hymnal* 204).

In our daily preparation we are expected, as a team member, to defend ourselves against aggressive mental suggestion, not neglecting our duty to God, to our beloved Leader, and to mankind. We must consciously prepare and practice what we’ve learned in order to make an aggressive defense against error and win a little each day until the victory is won. “Individuals are consistent who, watching and praying, can ‘run, and not be weary;...walk, and not faint,’ who gain good rapidly and hold their position, or attain slowly and yield not to discouragement” (*Science and Health* 254:2-6).

I asked Annie McCauley to share with me a healing at Peace Haven that illustrates these healing truths Mrs. Eddy shares with us in the textbook. Here are the first several paragraphs of the firsthand healing published by the patient on the patient’s blog and witnessed by those at Peace Haven:

“I wish also to express gratitude for Peace Haven, the Christian Science nursing facility in which I spent three weeks surrounded by the sincere and continual expression of love from its kind and caring administrators, and from the Christian Science nursing staff there.

Near the end of May 2014 on a rural road near my home, I sustained what was evaluated medically as a set of quite serious injuries as the result of a direct and severe collision between me on my Triumph Sprint motorcycle, and a deer. My wife picked me up and took me to our local Emergency Room immediately after the accident. After being transported from there to a Christian Science nursing facility, my healing came to me in a short period of time, and 100% through spiritually based prayer. I requested and received no material or medical aid of any kind at any time, because I had committed myself to an unwavering confidence in my purely spiritual identity as the image and likeness of God, who IS Love itself – nothing more, and nothing less.

X-rays taken at the ER indicated four broken ribs and a broken shoulder blade. The attending ER doctor said that in his view I needed to be transported immediately to an accident trauma center in Springfield (Mo). The doctor's opinion was offered with the best of intentions, and it was a grim one which included the prediction of a worsening of the situation and of a long recovery period. In fact none of those predictions proved to come true, and I can report with full confidence that the final harmonious outcome of this incident had everything to do with my turning away from negativity, and towards the love of God.

Of course the ER doctor wanted to do the right things for me, so he also advised that more x-rays be taken to evaluate the physical picture even further. I declined them, explaining to the doctor that as a Christian Scientist, any additional physical information would not be at all helpful to aid my objectives. I knew that I would be finding my healing through spiritual means alone, and that placing any faith or value in bodily material evidence only tends to oppose that approach.

The ER doctor was kind and helpful, and he was indeed my first human evidence that God indeed was in control and was already answering my prayer. Although the ER doctor did seem confused and a bit bewildered that I would decline expert medical treatment in favor of an unwavering faith in God, he unquestioningly and respectfully honored my decision. He even called my wife the following day, after my transport to a Christian Science nursing facility to be sure I was doing well. That was love in expression and it set the stage for the harmony that was to unfold.

Through our telephone communication from the ER with the Christian Science practitioner, who lovingly stayed with me in prayer through the whole healing experience, we learned about Peace Haven, a non-medical healing and recovery facility for Christian Scientists, located in St. Louis. I had known of Peace Haven's existence, but knew little about it.

There was no hesitation. I knew immediately and firmly that this was where I was to go. The decision to go here came to me as though it were an angel message instructing me to listen and obey. This considerate ER doctor then made special arrangements for me to be transported by ambulance to Peace Haven, a trip of over four hours duration, in spite of the fact that it was against official policy for the EMTs to make such a drive in the middle of the night.

During my time of dedicated prayer and recovery at Peace Haven, I also discovered more and deeper spiritual meaning in quite a number of other Biblical passages, and in related relevant writings by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. I was also guided and supported in my prayers by the supporting prayers of my wife, who stayed by my side for the entire time I was there, by the prayerful and continual support of a Christian Science Practitioner, by the prayers and love expressed by the Christian Science nurses who lovingly and confidently attended to my every physical need, and by the prayers of the small number of select friends and family who knew about my situation. I am forever grateful for every supporting prayer received!"

As students of Christian Science we know that divine Love alone is man's life. That this life is of God, conceived of, born, nurtured, maintained, sustained, and perpetually triumphant in the empire of Mind. We know that this Mind is All and cannot be removed from its self-existent, all intelligent reign. We know that God's omnipotence dissolves the conjecture of other powers. We know that God is the only presence. Then, can sin, sickness, or death find a presence in man's life? Can sin or disease take up residence in God's child? No. We know that God is wisdom holding His innocent, pure child as the object of His immediate understanding (*Science and Health* 115:17). For that reason, each of us knows we are not born of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God alone (John1:13). We know it is God that made us; that we are not self-created (Ps. 100:3). We can only know ourselves as immortal, perfect and spiritual (*Science and Health* 475:11-13).

Therefore, we are *not* material. We are not chemical, biological, neurological, physically structural, or psychological. We are not made of material elements subject to material beliefs which mortal mind names law. We know that our life, substance, and intelligence are not found in matter where mortal minds congregate for worship. Each of us knows that the compound elements that comprise our being are of God's building, His temple. Mrs. Eddy defines "temple" in the Glossary as "Body; the idea of Life, substance, and intelligence, the

superstructure of Truth; the shrine of Love” (*Science and Health* 595:7). This is where *immortal* man congregates for worship. We know that we reflect the one divine Mind and always have. We have that mind that is in Christ, and none other. Accordingly, we know that only good has ever found a lasting home in our thought, so no erroneous influence or image can emerge in consciousness to be found in body, in God’s temple.

The Christian Scientist, so armed, is not at risk and cannot give heed to the voices of materialism and sensualism. He cannot be persuaded by the noise of supposed sin, the parade of diseases, nor can he consent to a pathway toward death. The Christian Scientist cannot be afraid. He is a sentinel on watch. He knows what false evidence, illusion, is and is not deceived by its presentation. The Christian Scientist can never be deceived into thinking that the five physical senses have a better grasp on his needs than spiritual sense. Mortal minds, human opinions, which our Leader tells us are valueless, under the guise of having superior knowledge, cannot tempt the Christian Scientist to believe that there is another mode beside God and that this other mode or method would bring honest and lasting blessing. Christian Scientists know that Christian Science heals and makes this his sole aim and goal. He claims the victory.

Let’s go back to the authority of our *Church Manual*. As stated, it includes every provision necessary for the individual and collective demonstration of Christian Science. We would do well to uphold and utilize each and every By-Law. Mrs. Eddy tells us in her article on Mental Digestion, “Of this I am sure, that each Rule and By-law in this Manual will increase the spirituality of him who obeys it, invigorate his capacity to heal the sick, to comfort such as mourn, and to awaken the sinner” (*My*. 230:10).

And in *Miscellaneous Writings*, Mrs. Eddy reminds us that the Rules and By-laws “were impelled by a power not one’s own...They sprang from necessity, the logic of events — from the immediate demand for them as a help that must be supplied to maintain the dignity and defense of our Cause; hence their simple, scientific basis, and detail so requisite to demonstrate genuine Christian Science...” (*Miscellaneous Writings* 148:14). So, the Christian Science Nurse by-law is provided for the Cause of Christian Science, for the demonstration of all Christian Scientists in seeing and holding the perfect man and woman to the standard of God’s Love, infinite health, and perfection. It is a “help” that must be supplied [and utilized] to

maintain the dignity and the defense of Christian Science and to defend our freedom to practice it.

It's important to note that this help, Christian Science nursing, is never beyond our reach if the case calls for it. It is unimaginable that God would give a directive to Mary Baker Eddy for the benefit of Christian Scientists and then put it beyond their reach financially, because of proximity, or personal pressure. God is the Lord and giver of all. God supplies our want in all our ways. "...God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Tim. 1:7).

In the book *Paths of Pioneer Christian Scientists*, published by Longyear Press, we read about a communication Annie Knott had with Mary Baker Eddy. She wrote to Mrs. Eddy, "In our work of late it has come to us in a very striking way how the obstetrics of Christian Science is needed for every one coming to us for treatment, that the Divine idea may be conceived and born in human consciousness."

The Divine idea, the babe of Christ healing understood and brought forth, made evident in human consciousness and experience.

There are many examples of this in the Bible. In Matthew (9:2-8) we find the healing of the paralytic. It is the healing our Leader opened to after her fall on the ice in 1866. It brought forth the babe of healing for Mrs. Eddy and, so, for us too! In this experience, Jesus prepared the thought of the palsied man for healing, for the "babe" to come forth. He first recognized faith, a quality innately natural in a Christian Scientist. Faith translates in Greek to mean: moral conviction, reliance upon Christ for salvation, belief, fidelity. Then Jesus told him, "Be of good cheer," and then, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." True forgiveness does not recognize sin but acknowledges its immutable nothingness, its lack of existence. The Christ's forgiveness served as a defense for the man's innate pure consciousness. It lifted condemnation off of him, putting the momentum of conscious thought on the side of the Christ. Mind reflected in mind.

Jesus prepared the way for the Divine idea to be conceived and born in human consciousness, by first discerning faith, then elevating thought to cheerful courage and joy, and then by removing from consciousness the thoughts that were not hospitable to the reception and manifestation of healing. This demonstration of Christian healing was then moved forward by

Jesus' command to "Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house." The Christ demanded something of the man. He had to arise. The word "arise" translates in Greek to mean: to waken; to rouse from disease, or death, from inactivity, ruins; to take a stand (Strong's 1453). Next, he was to take up his bed. Bed is defined as a small plot of ground. The man had to give up the belief that he was formed of the dust of the ground and must therefore be subject to the Adam dream and its consequences. Jesus told him to depart, to leave the false sense of life in matter behind and to go to his house. "House" in Greek can translate as "temple" (Strong's 3624). We already know that temple is the spiritual definition of body whose Builder and Maker is God.

The Christly demand, the babe of Christian healing was cherished by this dear man. We know he cherished it because "he arose [healed] and departed to his house."

But, what of the scribes that were present? Matthew tells us they thought about Jesus as though he blasphemed. "Blaspheme" translates to mean to speak impiously, to speak against God, to rail on, to defame, or to speak evil (Strong's 987, 989). Jesus, unfazed and with infinite wisdom, handled this imposition on healing. He did what he often did when healing in the midst of naysayers. He asked them a question. "Wherefore think ye evil in *your* hearts?" "Evil" here translates as hurtful in effect or influence, to cause mischief or guilt. Jesus did not take on their ignorant or malicious reasoning, nor did he become fearful.

But he knew their thoughts and their misguided intentions, even though it may have been all they could understand. With his question he uncovered their pride and the blindness of their hearts in not acknowledging the one supreme power higher than man's. Mrs. Eddy tells us, "It is not more difficult to make yourself heard mentally while others are thinking about your patients or conversing with them, if you understand Christian Science — the oneness and the allness of divine Love; but it is well to be alone with God and the sick while treating disease" (*Science and Health* 424:22). With Christly revelation Jesus stopped the quibbling over his Christly method of teaching and healing. He put the weight of all thought on the side of healing. He revealed his God-given divine authority as the Son of man with power on earth to forgive sin and to heal the sick. "When the multitudes saw it, they marveled, and glorified God which had given such power unto men."

We know Jesus was not afraid of the thoughts of the people around him, and neither were the people that sought him for healing. They came for healing in spite of the physicians, cultural

barriers, finite religious doctrines, false education, ethnic differences, and family pressure. Success was rooted and grounded in the fulfillment of the prophets. The Messiah had come with healing in his wings. And so, our success today is the fulfillment of prophecy. Christ Jesus promised the forever and complete Comforter, the Holy Ghost. Mary Baker Eddy gave it to us in the form of Christian Science.

Recall with me the definition of “cherish.” It says in part — “to treat and embrace with tenderness and affection; to cherish the principles of virtue; to treat in a manner to encourage growth; to hold as dear.” What are we cherishing? What are we bringing to the birth? We ask, plead, and implore our forever Father-Mother God to be with us, to help us, to guide us, to heal us, to comfort us, to keep us from chance; to take away our pain, our sin and diseases. We ask to be made worthy, to be unafraid.

Has He not already accomplished this in each of us? Might not gratitude play a part in our acceptance of what God has already done? Do we know that we love God? Do we recognize His love within us? We know we love our spouse, our children, our church, our job, etc. But do we recognize that we love God? We need to, because it is this Love that moves us to Christian demonstration. This love is already within us.

What are we bringing to the birth, to each new and old opportunity to bear witness to the healing power of the divine? Are we coming like the shepherds and wise men to the nativity, knowing the advent of something so wonderful has come? Do we recognize the second appearing and understand its significance? Do we cherish it? Are we humbled and grateful for all Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy have done in bringing God’s Word to mankind, for their unselfish labor, their endurance, their persistence, their consecrated listening and obedience to the Eternal Truth? Are we coming on bended knee to honor God and His Christ?

Do we let the Herods of today cause us to fear the babe of healing succumbing to mental malpractice? Do we bring hope or cynicism? Do we bring faith, or doubt and undisciplined thinking?

Are we cherishing what we profess to love, understanding that it fulfills the final prophecy, the earthly advent and nativity, especially dear to the heart of Christian Scientists; to whom

Christ's appearing in a fuller sense is so precious, and fraught with divine benedictions for mankind (*Miscellaneous Writings* 320:5).

Our dear Leader, our Mother in Israel, tells us in *Miscellaneous Writings*, "It is most fitting that Christian Scientists memorize the nativity of Jesus" (*Miscellaneous Writings* 374:17-18).

Whether she meant that literally or not, I am not sure. But, I am sure that she expects us to dig deeply into the spiritual significance of Jesus' advent. We cannot fully understand the words and works of Christ Jesus if we do not thoroughly understand his birth, the crucifixion, and the resurrection.

In the nativity we find all the necessary elements for healing.

Mrs. Eddy tells us that it was Mary's spiritual conception that brought forth the Christ idea. She brought it forth in the solitude of a stable, companioned by God's creatures whose purpose was a source of strength, to support Christian healing, and so, the babe came forth hidden from view and the fetters of personal sense (*Science and Health* 514:30-2). Blest is the fruit of thy womb. Mary wrapped this babe in swaddling clothes so that in rest it would not flail about in travail but be held firmly in the Comforting arms of Love. The shepherds and the wise men followed the star of light which showed them the way forward. The watchful wise men went a "new way" home to their country, keeping the unfoldment or revelation of the babe from the dangers of ego, agnosticism, and atheism. The angels of God's presence, continually communicating to each of the players whatever must be done to forward the mission and works of the babe, assured its continuance.

Listening, we hear angels too.

This babe of Christian healing grew and waxed strong in wisdom and stature. And so it does in each of us. It fulfils its intended mission. Today we know it as the Science of the Christ, still here, reigning in consciousness, never to be lost. This is the second coming, the Comforter that is with us forever. It bears each of us on upward wing, awakened to the babe and cherishing its practice and demonstration in our lives. This dear babe is the babe we are to cherish.

Christian Science nursing is just one of the avenues provided by our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, to this demonstrate Christian healing. We have the blessed opportunity, no, the obligation, to cherish each of her God-impelled provisions provided in the *Church Manual*. Their righteous

authority help maintain the dignity and the defense of our Cause; therefore, they maintain our dignity and our defense.

In Christian Science, we understand that the origin or conception of Christian healing is in Mind, God. Its birth is not a beginning but is the perpetual and sustained revelation of the Great I Am, and its idea. The babe is a sign, the fruit of healing, if you will, of that which comes forth as prepared, unfolding and maturing in each of us because we are the loved children of God, because we are made in His image and likeness.

The prophet Isaiah writes, “Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the Lord: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith the Lord” (66:9).

“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. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice for henceforth even forever”
(Isa. 9:6, 7).

Cherish the Babe!