

HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE

July 2020

Celebration and Gratitude

On July 4th America will celebrate its 244-year-old Declaration of Independence from tyranny. For many years both before and after this famous document was signed, the colonists endured unjust restrictions and harsh privations in their unflagging pursuit of freedom. Yet their faith in the Almighty's justice and mercy remained unwavering.

Our national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*, was likewise inspired during a time of crisis. It heralds Providence's protection during a long, anguishing night of battle, when "the dawn's early light" revealed the fort intact and found our "flag was still there."

There have been, and undoubtedly will continue to be, many such testing times for this nation — for every nation. As individuals, too, we encounter trials. By trusting divine guidance, we face these challenges boldly and emerge with newfound purpose. With humble expectancy and acceptance of good. With gratitude for God's uninterrupted reign of harmony and peace.

We are guaranteed to learn needed spiritual lessons from tribulation when we follow in the footsteps of Christ Jesus. Ever conscious of His Father's goodness, Jesus remained at peace during tumultuous times. When political and religious intolerance was harsh, hostile, extreme, he didn't lead protest marches against injustice or sign petitions addressed to the temple rabbis. Instead, Jesus simply loved. Honoring his Father, divine Love, he loved in the holy, unselfed way that healed all who appealed to him for help. Such pure and perfect love, originating in the Father and best embodied in His Son, shone on all alike, transforming receptive hearts and minds and ultimately changing the course of the entire world, without flourish or fanfare.

The meekest yet mightiest of men, Jesus always gave gratitude to God. The Bible records him lifting his eyes and thanking God *before* the five thousand were fed



Photo by Karolina Grabowska from Pexels

Continued ▼

and *before* Lazarus rose from his grave. Looking up — away from the discordant impositions the world saw — he humbly acknowledged God’s infinite love and man’s innate freedom. The blind, the lame, the deaf, the mute, the leprous — all were freed from the prison of belief that there could be a power other than God, Love.

The Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, knew that her mission on earth was to prove that the peace and harmony Christ Jesus taught and demonstrated was a practical Science meeting every human need — and not simply a dim hope. She carried out that mission by following the Master’s example of looking up to God — for direction and with gratitude —when she awoke every morning and when she put her head on her pillow every night.

Mrs. Eddy kept on her nightstand this single sentence written by her friend Phillips Brooks, Episcopal pastor of Trinity Church in Boston:

“God has not given us vast learning to solve all the problems, or unending wisdom to direct all the wanderings of our brothers’ lives; but He has given to every one of us the power to be spiritual, and by our spirituality to lift and enlarge and enlighten the lives we touch.”

(Mary Baker Eddy Christian Healer, Amplified Edition, 509).

At the bottom she had penciled the words: “The secret of my life is in the above.”

So, when should we lift our thought and look up to God in thanks? Always! One especially good time to celebrate His love is on the 4th of July, when we’re gazing up at fireworks. These dazzling displays of light — best seen in darkest night — fill us with wonder, awe, and joy! Let us then, now, and always rejoice that “Truth and Love come nearer in the hour of woe, when strong faith or spiritual strength wrestles and prevails through the understanding of God.”

(Science and Health, 567:3–6).



Photo by Anna-Louise from Pexels

Meet the Board

Dave Daniels, President – Ninth Church

Sue Merrill, Vice President – Bellaire Church

Salomon Ngalamulume, Treasurer – Seventh Church

Linda Lindeman, Corresponding Secretary – Fourth Church

Susan Clay, Recording Secretary – Seventh Church

Lynne Clark – The Woodlands Church

Grace Duffy – The Mother Church

We would *welcome* a board presence from churches not currently represented.

Make a Donation

Our office is your home – providing care in the comfort of your residence.

Thank you for your support.

Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Our service is grateful for the financial support from area Christian Science churches and individuals. Their contributions help us pay for our contracted staff and operating expenses.

BANKING CONTRIBUTIONS: To set up recurring donations to be deducted electronically from your checking account, please call our service at (713) 304-8384 and leave your name and contact number. Our treasurer will return your call and will be happy to assist you or answer questions.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY MAIL: We welcome checks mailed to us at:
Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc.
1834 Columbia Street, Houston, TX 77008-4348

“Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee”
Christian Science Hymn 324