



HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

January 2023

“ . . . Behold, I make all things new . . . ”

— EXCERPT FROM REVELATION 21:5

Today is Saturday, January 1, 1910. You wake up bright and early to yet another new year. Peeking out the window of your second-floor bedroom at 400 Beacon Street, in Brookline, Massachusetts, you see a new layer of sparkling snow blanketing the spacious lawn.

After studying your Bible Lesson on “God,” reciting your daily prayers, and saying grace over a bountiful breakfast with the rest of the household, you adjourn to the parlor to hear your beloved teacher, Mary Baker Eddy, read aloud a poem she wrote *in a mere ten minutes* earlier that morning. You and your fellow householders listen expectantly, knowing that whatever she composes—whether on the spur of the moment or after deep reflection and many revisions—is filled with spiritual blessings.

The poem, “[Extempore](#),” reads:

JANUARY 1, 1910

I

O blessings infinite!
O glad New Year!
Sweet sign and substance
Of God’s presence here.

II

Give us not only angels’ songs,
But Science vast, to which belongs
The tongue of angels
And the song of songs.*

[*These lines by Mary Baker Eddy were published as an editorial in the January 8, 1910, *Christian Science Sentinel*. Wrote the editor: “It was gratifying . . . to see in her spiritualized thought and mental vigor a symbol of the glad New Year on which we have just entered.” Later the poem was included in *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany* on page 354.]

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Fast forward 113 years.

Today is Sunday, January 1, 2023. You have just finished reading the Bible Lesson, whose subject, “God,” is the same as it was the first week of 1910.

Along with you, we (the Houston Visiting Christian Science nurse and board of directors) are treasuring not only Mrs. Eddy’s first poem of 1910—which would turn out to be the last year of her life on earth—but also her wealth of thoughts on the subject of newness. They elevate our understanding of what a New Year means spiritually.

There’s this: “Each successive stage of experience unfolds new views of divine goodness and love,” from page 66 of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.

And this: “Truth makes a new creature, in whom old things pass away and ‘all things are become new,’” from page 201 of the same book.

Recently we found a year-old *Sentinel* article, “Embracing the ‘new birth’ at Christmas, New Year’s, and always,” which encapsulates the spiritual sense of the New Year. Author Susan Booth Mack Snipes quotes the “Extempore” poem (see above) then writes of Mrs. Eddy:

This woman in her eighty-ninth year was still joyously anticipating good, seeing the blessing of fresh views of God’s presence right here and now. She was translating the angel songs, or messages of inspiration, that she was always listening for as the “song of songs”—the full message of what she had discovered of the Science of God and man, forever one as Principle and idea, eternal and indestructible. Her own longevity after her early years of poor health, at a time when a much shorter life expectancy was the norm, was no doubt proof to her that we always have all good to look forward to if we are looking to the infinite, God, to understand more of man’s—each individual’s—real nature and oneness with God.

Next, Snipes speaks of how Christmas and New Year’s are united—not just by the seven days between them but by “the new song of divine Science”:



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Isn't this truly what Christmas and New Year's—and in fact, every day—are all about? We are breaking the grip of fascination with the finite, mortal story of ourselves as having a beginning, middle, and end, and singing the new song of divine Science. We are experiencing the new birth that Christ Jesus told Nicodemus would reorient him to the new/old origin of Life in God and Life as God (see John 3:1–8). We are celebrating the ceaseless unfolding of good as infinite Mind, God, infinitely manifesting its own glorious self-completeness. We are acknowledging that our real origin is, like that of Christ Jesus, as divine Mind's pure idea. We are progressively identifying with our timeless and eternal oneness with God—with the spiritual fact that we literally live and move and experience all being as God's expression.

So Christmas and New Year's Day need not be two holidays—one spiritual and holy and the other secular and worldly—separated by a week. They are actually both about a new or Spirit-originated birth of holy consciousness.

Please finish reading [“Embracing the ‘new birth’ at Christmas, New Year’s, and always.”](#)

Snipes' last paragraph reminds us that every time Houston's *Journal*-listed visiting Christian Science nurse Susie Petersen steps into a client's room, she makes “fresh discoveries” of divine Love's infinitude and of the dear one who is embraced in Love's tender care.

To Susie, to all of us at HVCSNS, and to our friends—you!—New Year's is no hackneyed holiday. Rather, it's a joyous affirmation of the message John of Patmos heard from Christ Jesus, via an angel, and penned some two thousand New Years ago: “. . . Behold, I make all things new”

Financial Assistance Available

Any Christian Scientist relying upon the services of a Christian Science practitioner and/or a *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse may obtain financial support by applying to the [National Fund for Christian Science Nursing](#) (NFCSN). You may contact The Principle Foundation, which manages this fund, by emailing info@nfcsn.org or by calling (800) 873-2843.

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“Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee”

Christian Science Hymn 324