



HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

March 2021

Pussy Willow Buds, Healing Babe, and Gentle Beams

There was an old weeping willow tree on the farm where I grew up. As March winds swept it to and fro, I held the tiny, downy-soft pussy willow buds between cold fingers. Then I held them gently to my face, feeling a special closeness to God's natural glory.

That cherished memory humbles me and speaks of God's love for each one of us—timeless, felt in tangible ways, and perfectly tailored to every individual need. It also reminds me of why we celebrate the consecrated work of dedicated Christian Science nurses, like our own *Journal*-listed CSN, Susie Petersen.



Photo by Brett Sayles from Pexels

I'd like to share with you the theme we have chosen for 2021: "Cherish the babe of Christ healing by being a gentle beam of living Love."*

These 1828 Webster's Dictionary definitions of the words in our theme are still in use:

Cherish: To treat with tenderness and affection; to give warmth, ease or comfort to.

Babe of Christ: THE ANOINTED; an appellation given to the Savior of the world.

Healing: Curing; restoring to a sound state.

Gentle: Mild, meek, soft, soothing, tame; peaceable.

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Beam (there was no noun for “beam” of light in 1828, so we’ll go with the verb): To emit rays of light; shine; to send forth.

Living: Producing action, animation and vigor; quickening; as a living principle; a living faith.

Love: The love of God is the first duty of man, and this springs from just views of his attributes or excellencies of character, which afford the highest delight to the sanctified heart. Esteem and reverence constitute ingredients in this affection. [I John 4:16 God is Love.]

*See *Miscellaneous Writings*, 1883–1896, page 370, and Hymn No. 23 in the *Christian Science Hymnal*.

In his Association address of 1910, “Prayer and Practice,” Adam Dickey shared an insight into how Mrs. Eddy healed:

“Jesus said, ‘I can of mine own self do nothing. The Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works.’ In talking to me once on this point, Mrs. Eddy said, ‘When I was healing the sick, it was never any trouble to heal. When I went into a sick room, or when a person was brought to me, I simply looked at them and the thought came to me so strongly, Why, how strange! *Why should anybody be sick when there is no such thing as sickness? What an illusion, what a strange belief. It cannot be, and is not true, and the person always got well.*”

Mrs. Eddy proved that as we “cherish the babe of Christ healing by being a gentle beam of living Love,” we heal! And we witness healing, as our visiting Christian Science nurse—a beam of living Love if there ever was one!—does when she makes her daily rounds.

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