

3_27.03.24

Topic: Easter Gladness

The service began with singing Hymn 136:

Violet Hay, Christian Science Hymnal, No. 136 © 1932, renewed 1960 The Christian Science Board of Directors

I love Thy way of freedom, Lord, / To serve Thee is my choice, / In Thy clear light of Truth I rise / And, listening for Thy voice, / I hear Thy promise old and new, / That bids all fear to cease: / My presence still shall go with thee / And I will give thee peace.

Readings from The Holy Bible

1. Ps. 104:1 (to ;), 30

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; ... Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

2. Isa. 40:31 they

... they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

3. John 3:1–4, 6–8

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ... That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

4. Rom. 12:2 be

... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

5. Matt. 20:17–19

And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to

the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

6. Matt. 27:1, 2

When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

7. Matt. 27:27–31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. ¶ And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

8. Matt. 28:1, 2, 5, 6 (to 1st .), 9, 10

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. ... And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. ... And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

9. Luke 24:44–46, 48–53 ye (to 1st .)

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ... ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. ...

10. I Thess. 5:21

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

11. II Cor. 5:17 if

... if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Correlative passages from the Christian Science textbook *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy.

1. SH 26:10

The Christ was the Spirit which Jesus implied in his own statements: "I am the way, the truth, and the life;" "I and my Father are one." This Christ, or divinity of the man Jesus, was his divine nature, the godliness which animated him. Divine Truth, Life, and Love gave Jesus authority over sin, sickness, and death. His mission was to reveal the Science of celestial being, to prove what God is and what He does for man.

2. SH 253:32–8

The divine demand, "Be ye therefore perfect," is scientific, and the human footsteps leading to perfection are indispensable. 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. God requires perfection, but not until the battle between Spirit and flesh is fought and the victory won.

3. SH 24:20–28

Does erudite theology regard the crucifixion of Jesus chiefly as providing a ready pardon for all sinners who ask for it and are willing to be forgiven? Does spiritualism find Jesus' death necessary only for the presentation, after death, of the material Jesus, as a proof that spirits can return to earth? Then we must differ from them both.

The efficacy of the crucifixion lay in the practical affection and goodness it demonstrated for mankind.

4. SH 27:10

That Life is God, Jesus proved by his reappearance after the crucifixion in strict accordance with his scientific statement: "Destroy this temple [body], and in three days I [Spirit] will raise it up." It is as if he had said: The I — the Life, substance, and intelligence of the universe — is not in matter to be destroyed.

5. SH 43:17

The final demonstration of the truth which Jesus taught, and for which he was crucified, opened a new era for the world. Those who slew him to stay his influence perpetuated and extended it.

6. SH 49:21

He was to prove that the Christ is not subject to material conditions, but is above the reach of human wrath, and is able, through Truth, Life, and Love, to triumph over sin, sickness, death, and the grave.

7. SH 593:9

RESURRECTION. Spiritualization of thought; a new and higher idea of immortality, or spiritual existence; material belief yielding to spiritual understanding.

8. SH 42:15–28

The resurrection of the great demonstrator of God's power was the proof of his final triumph over body and matter, and gave full evidence of divine Science, — evidence so important to mortals. The belief that man has existence or mind separate from God is a dying error. This error Jesus met with divine Science and proved its nothingness. Because of the wondrous glory which God bestowed on His anointed, temptation, sin, sickness, and death had no terror for Jesus. Let men think they had killed the body! Afterwards he would show it to them unchanged. This demonstrates that in Christian Science the true man is governed by God — by good, not evil — and is therefore not a mortal but an immortal.

9. SH 45:7–10

Jesus' deed was for the enlightenment of men and for the salvation of the whole world from sin, sickness, and death.

10. SH 46:26–30

In his final demonstration, called the ascension, which closed the earthly record of Jesus, he rose above the physical knowledge of his disciples, and the material senses saw him no more.

His students then received the Holy Ghost.

11. SH 47:5–7

After gaining the true idea of their glorified Master, they became better healers, leaning no longer on matter, but on the divine Principle of their work.

12. SH 241:13

The Bible teaches transformation of the body by the renewal of Spirit. Take away the spiritual signification of Scripture, and that compilation can do no more for mortals than can moonbeams to melt a river of ice. The error of the ages is preaching without practice.

13. SH 452:18 (only), 23

Right is radical. ... Expect to heal simply by repeating the author's words, by right talking and wrong acting, and you will be disappointed. Such a practice does not demonstrate the Science by which divine Mind heals the sick.

14. SH 162:16

Working out the rules of Science in practice, the author has restored health in cases of both acute and chronic disease in their severest forms. Secretions have been changed, the structure has been renewed, shortened limbs have been elongated, ankylosed joints have been made supple, and carious bones have been restored to healthy conditions. I have restored what is called the lost substance of lungs, and healthy organizations have been established where disease was organic. Christian Science heals organic disease as surely as it heals what is called functional, for it requires only a fuller understanding of the divine Principle of Christian Science to demonstrate the higher rule.

15. SH 232:27

It is only when the so-called pleasures and pains of sense pass away in our lives, that we find unquestionable signs of the burial of error and the resurrection to spiritual life.

16. SH 24:11–13

He to whom “the arm of the Lord” is revealed will believe our report, and rise into newness of life with regeneration.

17. SH 33:21

This is the new understanding of spiritual Love. It gives all for Christ, or Truth. It blesses its enemies, heals the sick, casts out error, raises the dead from trespasses and sins, and preaches the gospel to the poor, the meek in heart.

The readings concluded with silent prayer followed by the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer from Matthew Chapter 6.

The congregation then sang Hymn 600:

*Fenella Bennetts And Robert Witney, Christian Science Hymnal: Hymns 430-603, No. 600 © 2017
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Christ is the light with which we shine, / Lit from within by this love divine. / Step out
with courage, dare to go, / Give from the heart the love you know.

The First Reader read announcements from the desk and then opened the meeting to the floor giving those in attendance the opportunity to share healings and inspiration gained from the study and practice of Christian Science.

The meeting closed with Hymn 413:

*Frances Thompson Hill, Christian Science Hymnal, No. 413 © 1932, renewed 1960 The Christian
Science Board of Directors*

Let us sing of Easter gladness / That rejoices every day, / Sing of hope and faith uplifted; /
Love has rolled the stone away. / Lo, the promise and fulfillment, / Lo, the man whom
God hath made, / Seen in glory of an Easter / Crowned with light that cannot fade.