

Christian Science lectures: A beacon of light

IN A TIME of enormous upheaval, typical worldly promises are often seen to be incapable of providing what's needed. That's when people go looking for what's really true and reliable in ways they might not at other times. These moments provide ripe opportunities for the light of Christian Science, "built on a hill," to shine and light the way to human progress, health, hope, and salvation.

In part of what's known as the Sermon on the Mount in the Bible, Jesus says, "A city built on a hill cannot be hid.... In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14, 16, New Revised Standard Version). The imagery is vivid. When it's dark out and one is wandering through the wilderness, that welcoming beacon of light promising refuge is unmistakable. And the same is true during our own dark times, when the light of divine Love is reflected in the actions of individuals showing their neighbors there's a Christianly scientific way to find stability, health, and freedom from fear—here and now.

Throughout this past lecture year, many shared the light of Christian Science in their communities by hosting a lecture on Christian Science. We've appreciated hearing from people how meaningful it has been that so many lectures were able to go forward online and over the phone during times when public gatherings were restricted. Many shared that friends, family, and former church members attended these lectures—either for the first time, or after a long time away—and that they've heard feedback of significant comfort and healing.

Whether or not you were part of a lecture that was held in the past few months, most of us have probably sought out new views in thinking through how we could accomplish whatever has been needed in these times. This pioneering spirit can continue to inspire us going forward.

Mary Baker Eddy wrote: "The necessity for uplifting the race is father to the fact that Mind can do it; for Mind can impart purity instead of impurity, strength instead of weakness, and health instead of disease. Truth is an alterative in the entire system, and can make it 'every whit whole'" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 371).

The divine Mind, the one God that meets all our needs, is supplying the fresh perspectives and inspirations essential to our breaking new ground in useful, healing ways. This has and will continue in every form of human activity, including our lectures. Willingness to rely on Mind's direction in all our efforts leads to new views and steps of genuine progress.

Mary Baker Eddy also gave an indication of what allows the light of God to shine through us, when she said, "... the world has need of you,—and more as children than as men and women: it needs your innocence, unselfishness, faithful affection, uncontaminated lives" (*Miscellaneous Writings 1883–1896*, p. 110). From our view in the

Board of Lectureship office, we see these characteristics abundantly expressed in the actions of so many branch church members planning lectures. We observe “innocence” displayed in the might of God-derived goodness more than in human expertise. And we rejoice in “faithful affection” among members praying about their lecture plans, and “unselfishness” in consideration given to what approach will best meet a community’s needs. These will always be the Christlike qualities that help us to be lifted higher spiritually, to be “built on a hill,” and to see more of the light of Truth making our communities “every whit whole.”

Thank you for all you continue to do to let the light shine through you.

With love and gratitude,

Tom McElroy

Manager, Christian Science Board of Lectureship

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

—REVELATION 19:6