



Summer 2024

Letting Divine Love Lead



My nephew, who is earning his pilot's license, was telling me about flying a plane through cloudy weather. When you can't see where you are going, you need to trust the instruments to guide you. Sometimes they might tell you to do something that runs counter to what your human perception is telling you to do — but you need to have faith in the instruments and completely rely on them, since your human sense of things can be mistaken.

This conversation got me thinking about what guides us on a daily basis. While it can be tempting to rely on human reasoning and material perception, these can lead us astray.

Christ Jesus, our Way-shower, has given us all the guidance we need with his teachings and his two Great Commandments: to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourself.

As we strive to follow these two Great Commandments, we will stay the course that He is intending for us. Even if we can't see the destination through the fog, we know that He is leading us just where He wants us to be, fulfilling His purpose.

Several years ago, when our young family was living in Prague, my husband arrived home one day with the news that the institute where he was working was about to close, which meant all the employees would be losing their jobs. This unexpected news threw our long-term plans into a tailspin — but over the next few months, whenever faced with thoughts of fear or

resentment, I would do my best to stay with those two Great Commandments. Over time it was quite wonderful to see each of my husband's co-workers land in a good place — and we were grateful for the way that divine Love led us on to a new adventure, which eventually brought us back to the United States.

At Lynn House we are striving — individually and collectively — to live in accord with these two Great Commandments. Christian Science nursing truly is about loving God with all our heart — and loving our neighbor as ourselves. It starts with God — recognizing Him as our divine Father-Mother, tenderly caring for all of His creation. The second part naturally follows: loving all of God's children and bearing witness to their true spiritual identity.

In this newsletter you'll find beautiful examples of divine Love-in-action, leading to health and harmony.

Mary Baker Eddy has written that even when "the way seems dark in mortal sense, divine Life and Love illumine it..." (*Science & Health*, p. 596). Christian Science nursing is available to comfort during those times of darkness and to help bring in the healing Christ-light. Many thanks for your support of this sacred ministry.

Susan Orttung
Executive Director





Rose Mudida

Director of Christian Science Nursing

The Bylaw for the Christian Science Nurse says: "A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be

one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick" (*Church Manual*, p. 49).

It is important that this bylaw begins with church membership and "a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice." This "demonstrable knowledge" is prayerful preparation. We have to prepare by praying and listening. We need to turn to God for everything. In Christian Science nurses training classes we learn many useful skills, but the most important is listening to divine Mind for guidance.

Before entering a room, you must prepare yourself metaphysically. You need to be sure that it is not human will but divine Mind that is guiding. When you enter a room with a spiritual thought, you will not accept any false picture and will correct whatever is being presented. Mary Baker Eddy has told us: "Beloved Christian Scientists, keep your minds so filled with Truth and Love, that sin, disease, and death cannot enter them. ... Good thoughts are an impervious armor; clad therewith you are completely shielded from the attacks of error of every sort. And not only yourselves are

safe, but all whom your thoughts rest upon are thereby benefited" (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 210).

The communication is always from God to His children, and we just need to be listening.

The bylaw is under Article VIII, Guidance of Members — and it is for all Christian Scientists, since we all are called to serve in different ways. In a church, you might serve as a reader, usher, or Sunday School teacher. However you are called to serve, the nursing qualities are important. In *Science and Health* on page 395, Mary Baker Eddy writes that a nurse should be "cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, and receptive to Truth and Love." These nursing qualities help us to nurture one another. (The root of the word "nurse" is "nurture.") As we serve in church we are nurturing one another, and this requires that prayerful preparation of praying and listening. The Manual Bylaw truly does apply to all of us — and helps us to serve all mankind.



Update on Housing Project

Our plans for a new building for Christian Science nurses housing and training have taken a new form. Our original plan was to replace the small cottage on the corner of our property with a larger building that would provide both short-term living accommodations for our Christian Science nurses and space for Christian Science nurses training. However, we have encountered

some roadblocks with the permitting process, and we are currently reevaluating options.

The goal remains the same: providing short-term housing for Christian Science nurses as well as a space for Christian Science nurses training classes. However, we are now exploring the possibility of accomplishing this by adding a new wing to our building. We will keep you posted.

From the Executive Board

What does it mean to be perfectly aligned with God? How do we achieve this? Jesus' instructions were to follow the two great commandments, and Mary Baker Eddy reiterated these in her article *The New Birth*: "The prominent laws which forward birth in the divine order of Science, are these: 'Thou shalt have no other gods before me;' 'Love thy neighbor as thyself'" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 18). The divine order of Science — to love God above all else and to love mankind — will lead to lasting harmony. In this harmony we find health, satisfaction, and joy in our everyday activities. As we set aside our human plans and endeavor to follow the will of the Father, we find our true purpose in being. As we pray, we will hear God's directions and be capable of following.

The definition of "align" (Oxford Languages):

- 1) place or arrange (things) in a straight line
- 2) give support to (a person, organization, or cause); come together in agreement or alliance

Some synonyms are: join, unite, cooperate, collaborate, put in order, orient. To give support is the primary task of a Christian Science nurse, and in their work they are constantly aligning their thought with God's view of the situation. They are never dwelling on what is going on physically but always bearing testimony to God's perfect child, pure, innocent, precious, treasured, and thriving. Many Christian Science nurses pause before entering a room to wait for the Christ to lead, to make sure they are listening and following God-impelled steps of care and Christly compassion for each patient.

Hymn 553 tells of laying aside our human plans for God's plan:

"When our own plans seem to crumble
Incomplete or ill-defined,
Let us turn to God's creation,
Always perfectly aligned.

With the model right before us,
Perfect God and perfect man,
Let God's wholeness reign within us,
Let Mind's will perfect our plan."

(Christian Science Hymnal, No. 553:2, 3)

When we are aligned with God, harmony is the result. We sometimes need to put aside our own will to be receptive to God's directing and inspiration.

Over the past several months, Lynn House has been facing a difficult position financially. Two funding sources have had to cut back significantly on the support they had been giving to many Christian Science nursing facilities, and this seems to have left a substantial void. While acknowledging God's ever-present provision, the Lynn House Board is also praying to be receptive to God's direction.

One idea we would like to pursue is increasing our modest Endowment so that its proceeds are better able to help support our work. We are also continuing with our annual fundraising activities — our Summer Appeal and our year-end Matching Challenge. Our field is most generous, and we are very grateful for all the loving support that is given.

We are letting our need be known, while trusting in omnipotent God as the ever-present source of all goodness. We know this *Manual*-based activity, Christian Science nursing, is needed; it is a vital part of Church, and it is a complete idea. We ask our field to join us in praying about the right way forward, in alignment with God's plan.

"Whosoever understands the power of Spirit, has no doubt of God's power, — even the might of Truth, — to heal, through divine Science, beyond all human means and methods" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 52). As we are aligned with God and seeing our true being in the kingdom of heaven, we are awake to God's blessings and abundance. There is no place for lack or discord, but only healing and harmony among God's children. We are grateful to be seeing this at Lynn House every day, and we thank you for your support of this holy ministry.

—Sandy Workman
Executive Board Chair



The Residences

In addition to our Christian Science nursing services, Lynn House has a small residential wing, called The Residences. It offers both Independent and Assisted Living in an environment wholly supportive of the practice of Christian Science.

On a recent warm afternoon, some of our folks enjoyed milkshakes made-to-order by one of our residents.



Working together for good...



We are so grateful for all those working in support of Lynn House — including our administrative support team (Robin and Owen) who this spring took on the major task of reorganizing our library and developing a searchable catalog, making these resources easier for everyone to access and enjoy.

Lynn House also welcomes volunteers to help with various activities —including reading the Bible Lesson with our patients and residents, leading our weekly testimony meetings, and gardening. If you might be interested in volunteering, please reach out to Holly Black, our Activities Coordinator, at 703-379-6000. Thank you!

"...let us run with patience the race that is set before us..." (Hebrews 12:1)



Dedication. Persistence. Faith. These are some of the qualities that have helped Jonathan Ladson, our Food Service Manager, excel as a long-distance runner. Our residents have enjoyed tracking him online as he has competed in races all over the world – including the Boston Marathon, Big Sur Marathon, London Marathon, and the Comrades Ultra (53-mile) Marathon in South Africa. This year he won first place in the Boston to Big Sur Challenge, with a time of 5 hours, 19 minutes, 46 seconds (combining his 2:44:35 Boston Marathon time with his 2:35:11 Big Sur time).

Jonathan says that he enjoys overcoming limitations and that he appreciates the camaraderie he feels with the other runners during a race as they help each other to do

their best. To stay centered during these long races, he focuses on the “small wins” (such as keeping the pace for a set distance) and he prays for the strength and energy he needs to keep going until he crosses the finish line.

Jonathan has been an inspiration to all of us, and we love cheering for him from the sidelines. We also appreciate our other Food Service members (Greg, Mark, and Rich) pulling together to cover when Jonathan is away at these races. It takes a team!



Notes of Gratitude

"I wanted to thank you again for so generously accommodating my stay with such short notice. It meant so much to me to be able to be surrounded by such a good, loving and healing mental atmosphere. There is no place else like it – I had nowhere else to go! ... It brought me great comfort to be there, and I felt safe knowing it was filled with uplifting Christian Science thought and practice."

...

"The healing atmosphere, the supportive community, the gentle professionalism and ministry of the Christian Science nursing staff was such a blessing. [Our entire family] was embraced in ways we could not have anticipated. Simply put: Lynn House cared for all of us."

...

"The Spirit and practice of Christ healing has a safe and effective home at Lynn House. ...Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Testimony of Healing

I am so grateful for my experience with Christian Science nursing care at Lynn House. Earlier this year I found myself facing a challenge where I was needing to receive all care in bed. It was so good to be able to be in a place where I felt safe and where there was an expectancy of healing. The Christian Science nurses were professional and very expert at their tasks, and they also gave me the mental atmosphere that was conducive to healing. They were so loving and compassionate in their manner, and they expressed so much joy. With their wonderful care – and the support of a Christian Science practitioner – there was steady progress and a lovely healing. Thank you to Mrs. Eddy for providing this activity as part of her church organization. I feel such love and gratitude.

From the Christian Science Provider Network

Have you heard of the Christian Science Provider Network (CSPN)? If you or a loved one ever needs to pay for Christian Science nursing care, you'll be grateful to know about it!

The CSPN was created by The Mother Church as a non-profit organization to help individual Christian Scientists and Christian Science nursing facilities navigate the complexities of filing claims for Medicare and other health insurance benefits. The CSPN also helps ensure that Christian Science nursing facilities uphold a standard of operations that qualifies them to receive reimbursement payments. Without the help of the Provider Network, claims are often delayed or even unresolved — left either in limbo or lost. In other

words, the CSPN can make a real difference when it comes to paying the bill for care.

In recent years, The Mother Church shifted its financial support of the Provider Network to the field, with the CSPN tasked with managing its fundraising efforts. As the expense of health care has increased, so have the complexities of insurance reimbursement, raising the costs for the CSPN to process claims. Your donations have enabled the CSPN to continue to serve you, your loved ones and Christian Science nursing facilities.

To learn more about the CSPN — its history and value to the Christian Science field — please visit the website csprovidernetwork.org.



Walking with Love

I walk with Love along the way / And O, it is a holy day;

*...Come, walk with Love along the way,
Let childlike trust be yours today;
Uplift your thought, with courage go,
Give of your heart's rich overflow,
And peace shall crown your joy-filled day.
Come, walk with Love along the way.*

(Christian Science Hymnal #139)

This hymn ties in beautifully with Christian Science nursing — which is walking with Love and giving from the heart.

Similarly, we are deeply grateful to all of you who “give of your heart’s rich overflow” in support of Lynn House and Christian Science nursing. Many thanks for your prayerful support, for volunteering your time and talents — and for contributing financially.

Each year Lynn House counts on about \$1 million in donations, grants, and bequests to cover the difference between our revenue and our true operating costs. Your support helps to ensure that Lynn House is here to provide Christian Science nursing care — and that it remains, for years to come, a beacon of Christian Science healing in the Washington, DC area.

Financial donations can be made by check, credit card, stock, or IRA gifts. They can be given:

- through our website (lynnhouse.org)
- by mail (4400 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22304) or
- over the phone (703-379-6000).

Please consider becoming a Sustainer by pledging to make a monthly contribution of any amount that is comfortable for you. Sustainers play a special role in helping to bring stability to our operations.

Including Lynn House in your estate plans is another way of giving support and leaving a lasting legacy. The loving bequests that Lynn House has received over the years have been a tremendous blessing.



*Would you like to explore the possibility of joining
our Christian Science nursing ministry?
If so, we would love to hear from you!*



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A Christian Science nursing facility supporting Christian Science healing