

# The First Church of Christ, Scientist

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January 2022

Dear Fellow Members of The Mother Church,

There are two cloth-bound notebooks on my desk, precious to me. They belonged to my grandmother and she has filled them with handwritten testimonies of gratitude. The first is dated April 1, 1931, a few years after she was introduced to Christian Science in Japan. She writes, “Since Christian Science has been introduced to me, countless blessings have been showered upon me. If there is one that I recognize more than another, it is a sense of gratitude such as I have never before experienced... Christian Science means everything to me...” She acknowledges her two sons no longer spend time in the hospital during the winter months, her friends have noticed her worry give way to joy, her anxieties about finances and safety have lifted. In the second notebook, she writes of coming through the war years and experiencing a “tremendous thrill, a feeling that I shall never again say anything is impossible to thought armed with scientific power [Christian Science]...”

The gratitude that spills from every page is thanks to the healing power of the Christ which enabled her to overcome the barriers of pantheistic beliefs and language, survive the firebombing of Tokyo, and find lasting health, peace, and joy. The Christ is the foundation of our Church, established by Mary Baker Eddy, “...designed to be built on the Rock, Christ; even the understanding and demonstration of divine Truth, Life, and Love, healing and saving the world from sin and death; thus to reflect in some degree the Church Universal and Triumphant” (Mary Baker Eddy, *Manual of The Mother Church*, p. 19).

Each member of The Mother Church participates in the healing activity of Church, for each of us has solemnly promised “to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just, and pure” (Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 497). It’s a wonderful expression of Love that we have made for one another. Our individual healing practice is supported by the sincere collective promise we have made. This gives each of us the “grace to go forward,” for we walk hand in hand with God and “full is the promise, the blessing how kind” (*Christian Science Hymnal*, No. 278).

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Our world is so hungry for healing, and this need is ever more apparent. As we adjust to life after the disruptions of the past year: the pandemic, political instability, protests for social justice, severe weather patterns, and economic hardship, we can know that wherever we are in the world, the tender love of the Christ, as expressed through the activity of The Mother Church, is reaching us. Our Leader writes: “Thus founded upon the rock of Christ, when storm and tempest beat against this sure foundation, you, safely sheltered in the strong tower of hope, faith, and Love, are God’s nestlings; and He will hide you in His feathers till the storm has passed” (*Miscellaneous Writings 1883–1896*, p. 152). We stand with our fellow members in Christly unity, and this is our protection from any aggressive mental suggestion that would try to disturb our peace.

We know that healing is happening. We hear evidence of this every week in the Wednesday testimony meetings in our local branch churches, societies, and The Mother Church. We read verified healing accounts in *The Christian Science Journal*, the *Christian Science Sentinel*, and *The Herald of Christian Science*. Our Bible Lesson gives us our Sunday sermon, uniting the world into one congregation, encouraging an intimate individual relationship with our Pastor. Our newspaper, *The Christian Science Monitor*, shines a light on points of progress in the world, actively showing that this Science is at work and blessing all mankind.

All of this is the expression of the spiritual activity of Church made tangible in our lives. The Mother Church treasures every member wherever you are in the globe. “Each of Christ’s little ones reflects the infinite One, and therefore is the seer’s declaration true, that ‘one on God’s side is a majority’”(Mary Baker Eddy, *Pulpit and Press*, p. 4). We are so grateful for your commitment to this Cause. Together, we do “walk with courage each step of the way” (*Hymnal*, No. 278) and in so doing reflect in “some degree the Church Universal and Triumphant.”

With much love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mimi Oka', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mimi Oka  
President