

# The First Church of Christ, Scientist

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## Christian Science Practitioner Scope of Services

Christian Science is a system of religion—a spiritual practice—based on the teachings of Christ Jesus. It was founded by Mary Baker Eddy, author of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. This primary work on Christian Science points its readers to the Bible to find healing and inspiration. It is a religion that has been practiced for more than a century. Christian Science teaches, as the Bible reveals, that God, Spirit, is all good. Each of us is God’s loved, spiritual child—an individual idea of divine Love. Anyone can turn to God and find moral, physical, and spiritual healing of life’s challenges.

Christian Science practitioners are experienced Christian Scientists who advertise their healing practice online and in *The Christian Science Journal*, a monthly magazine published by The Christian Science Publishing Society. They are members of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Practitioners pray with those who request their help from any background, culture, race, faith, or location. They practice with Christian love and care. The prayer of the practitioner does not involve repetition or petition. Their prayers are a humble, heartfelt listening for the always present “still small voice” of divine Spirit and Love, and this leads to healing.

Christian Science practitioners receive their training through a course in healing from a teacher of Christian Science. They are expected to continue their spiritual education by attending a yearly Christian Science conference. They study, regularly, the Scriptures, the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, and the weekly Christian Science Bible Lesson published in the *Christian Science Quarterly*. They are independent workers who dedicate their full time to this work. They have no other profession. When compensation is permissible by law, they are paid by the individuals who request their service and appreciate their help. They are not paid by the church.

*The following description, although not a complete list, shares some of what to expect when you contact a Christian Science practitioner for help:*

### A Christian Science practitioner:

- Prays, when asked, for the healing of any difficulties, including physical, financial, emotional, and relationship challenges. This Bible-based prayer is explained in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy;
- Responds with Christian love and spiritual assurance of God’s presence, power, and tender care, while discerning what may need uncovering to free the patient’s thought;

*Continued on the other side*

- Affirms with understanding and grace the individual's spiritual perfection;
- May share readings from the Scriptures, the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, and other Christian Science writings;
- Answers questions about God, Christ Jesus, and Christian Science;
- Visits the person asking for prayer, upon request, when possible and appropriate.

A Christian Science practitioner **does not**:

- Use any form of psychological treatment, counseling, or therapy;
- Use any form of medical technology or treatment, including diagnosis, prognosis, drugs (medicated, herbal, or vitamin-based products or remedies), or physical therapy;
- Use any form of physical contact, laying on of hands, or manipulation;
- Use any type of a formula for prayer; or hypnotism, witchcraft, mesmerism, or will-power;
- Give advice or take responsibility for any kind of life decisions, including financial, health care, medical care, or physical care;
- Claim any personal healing power (God is the healer).

The ethics of a Christian Science practitioner require:

- Christian practice (e.g., following the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and Christ Jesus' other teachings); "reinstat[ing] primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing" (Mary Baker Eddy, *Church Manual*, p. 17);
- Applying the teachings of Christian Science to support individual spiritual growth;
- That all discussions about an individual's personal situation be kept confidential in accordance with the governing By-Laws of our church (unless reporting information is required by law);
- The use of wisdom when deciding whether to help a person through prayer;
- That the practitioner make clear how their day-to-day practice works and what their charges are (unless it is an urgent request call);
- That services be stopped when such a request has been made;
- Obeying the laws of the land.

Prepared by Christian Science Practitioner Activities  
The First Church of Christ, Scientist, October 2020