

# 2025.12.10 - Advent - John the Baptist



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🗨 *Christian Science Hymnal 417, 9, 549*

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🗨 *King James Bible*

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## 1. Isa. 40:3–8

- 3 ¶ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:
- 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.
- 6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, and all the goodliness thereof *is* as the flower of the field:
- 7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people *is* grass.
- 8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

## 2. Jer. 1:4–12

- 4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
- 5 Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.
- 6 Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I *am* a child.
- 7 ¶ But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I *am* a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.
- 8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.
- 9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.
- 10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.
- 11 ¶ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree.
- 12 Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

### 3. Mal. 3:1

- 1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

### 4. Luke 1:5–80

- 5 ¶ There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judæa, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elisabeth.
- 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.
- 7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were *now* well stricken in years.
- 8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,
- 9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.
- 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.
- 11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.
- 12 And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.
- 13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.
- 14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.
- 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.
- 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.
- 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
- 18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.
- 19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.
- 20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.
- 21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.
- 22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had

seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among men.

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women.

29 And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed *art* thou among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of thy womb.

43 And whence *is* this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

45 And blessed *is* she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things

which were told her from the Lord.

46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He hath put down the mighty from *their* seats, and exalted them of low degree.

53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of *his* mercy;

55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

57 Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

58 And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

60 And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

61 And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.

62 And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.

64 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue *loosed*, and he spake, and praised God.

65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judæa.

66 And all they that heard *them* laid *them* up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

68 Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

72 To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,

74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.  
 76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before  
 the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
 77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,  
 78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath  
 visited us,  
 79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet  
 into the way of peace.  
 80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of  
 his shewing unto Israel.

🗨 *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy

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### 1. SH 455:20–25

God selects

The trust of  
the All-wise

21 for the highest service one who has grown into such a  
 fitness for it as renders any abuse of the mission an im-  
 possibility. The All-wise does not bestow His highest  
 24 trusts upon the unworthy. When He commissions a mes-  
 senger, it is one who is spiritually near Himself.

### 2. SH 593:4

**PROPHET.** A spiritual seer; disappearance of mate-  
 rial sense before the conscious facts of spiritual Truth.

### 3. SH 429:21–27

Continuity  
of existence

21 If we live after death and are immortal, we  
 must have lived before birth, for if Life ever  
 had any beginning, it must also have an ending, even ac-  
 24 cording to the calculations of natural science. Do you  
 believe this? No! Do you understand it? No! This  
 is why you doubt the statement and do not demonstrate  
 27 the facts it involves.

### 4. SH 597:16

**WILDERNESS.** Loneliness; doubt; darkness. Spon-  
 taneity of thought and idea; the vestibule in which a  
 18 material sense of things disappears, and spiritual sense  
 unfolds the great facts of existence.

## 5. SH 354:14

Surely

Healing  
omitted

- 15 it is not enough to cleave to barren and desultory dogmas, derived from the traditions of the elders who thereunto have set their seals.

## 6. SH 593:23

SEAL. The signet of error revealed by Truth.

## 7. SH 3:27

- 27 If we are ungrateful for Life, Truth, and Love, and yet return thanks to God for all blessings, we are insincere and incur the sharp censure our Master pronounces on hypocrites. In such a case, the only acceptable prayer is to put the finger on the lips and remember our blessings. While the heart is far from  
1 divine Truth and Love, we cannot conceal the ingratitude of barren lives.

## 8. SH 146:7

By

- trusting matter to destroy its own discord, health and  
9 harmony have been sacrificed. Such systems are barren of the vitality of spiritual power, by which material sense is made the servant of Science and religion becomes  
12 Christlike.

## 9. SH 485:4–5, 14–17

Science declares that Mind, not matter, sees, hears, feels, speaks.

Error only  
ephemeral

- 15 Emerge gently from matter into Spirit. Think not to thwart the spiritual ultimate of all things, but come naturally into Spirit through better health and morals and as the result of spiritual growth.

Scientific  
translations

## 10. SH 15:7

The Father in secret is unseen to the physical senses, but He knows all things and rewards according to

9 motives, not according to speech. To enter into the  
heart of prayer, the door of the erring senses must be  
closed. Lips must be mute and materialism silent,  
12 that man may have audience with Spirit, the divine  
Principle, Love, which destroys all error.

## 11. SH 57:22–11

Human affection is not poured forth vainly, even  
though it meet no return. Love enriches the nature, en-  
24 larging, purifying, and elevating it. The wintry  
blasts of earth may uproot the flowers of affec-  
tion, and scatter them to the winds; but this severance  
27 of fleshly ties serves to unite thought more closely to  
God, for Love supports the struggling heart until it ceases  
to sigh over the world and begins to unfold its wings for  
30 heaven.

Help and  
discipline

Marriage is unblest or blest, according to the disap-  
pointments it involves or the hopes it fulfils. To happify  
1 existence by constant intercourse with those adapted to  
elevate it, should be the motive of society. Unity of  
3 spirit gives new pinions to joy, or else joy's drooping  
wings trail in dust.

Ill-arranged notes produce discord. Tones of the  
6 human mind may be different, but they should be con-  
cordant in order to blend properly. Unselfish  
ambition, noble life-motives, and purity, —  
9 these constituents of thought, mingling, constitute in-  
dividually and collectively true happiness, strength, and  
permanence.

Chord and  
discord

## 12. SH 61:4

The good in human affections must have ascendancy  
over the evil and the spiritual over the animal, or happi-  
6 ness will never be won. The attainment of  
this celestial condition would improve our  
progeny, diminish crime, and give higher aims to ambi-  
9 tion. Every valley of sin must be exalted, and every  
mountain of selfishness be brought low, that the highway  
of our God may be prepared in Science. The offspring  
12 of heavenly-minded parents inherit more intellect, better

Ascendancy  
of good

balanced minds, and sounder constitutions.

### 13. SH 302:31

Even in Christian Science, reproduction by Spirit's individual ideas is but the reflection of the creative power  
1 of the divine Principle of those ideas. The reflection,  
through mental manifestation, of the multitudinous  
3 forms of Mind which people the realm of  
the real is controlled by Mind, the Principle  
governing the reflection. Multiplication of God's chil-  
6 dren comes from no power of propagation in matter, it  
is the reflection of Spirit.

Mental  
propagation

### 14. SH 582:28

**CHILDREN.** The spiritual thoughts and representatives of Life, Truth, and Love.

### 15. SH 588:7

**HOLY GHOST.** Divine Science; the development of eternal Life, Truth, and Love.

### 16. SH 463:6

6 To attend properly  
the birth of the new child, or divine idea,  
you should so detach mortal thought from its  
9 material conceptions, that the birth will be natural and  
safe. Though gathering new energy, this idea cannot  
injure its useful surroundings in the travail of spiritual  
12 birth. A spiritual idea has not a single element of error,  
and this truth removes properly whatever is offensive.  
The new idea, conceived and born of Truth and Love, is  
15 clad in white garments. Its beginning will be meek, its  
growth sturdy, and its maturity undecaying. When  
this new birth takes place, the Christian Science infant  
18 is born of the Spirit, born of God, and can cause the  
mother no more suffering. By this we know that Truth  
is here and has fulfilled its perfect work.

Scientific  
obstetrics



## 17. SH 236:12–27

12 A mother is the strongest educator, either for or  
against crime. Her thoughts form the embryo of an-  
other mortal mind, and unconsciously mould  
15 it, either after a model odious to herself or  
through divine influence, “according to the pattern  
showed to thee in the mount.” Hence the importance  
18 of Christian Science, from which we learn of the one  
Mind and of the availability of good as the remedy for  
every woe.

A mother's  
responsibility

21 Children should obey their parents; insubordination  
is an evil, blighting the buddings of self-government.  
Parents should teach their children at the  
24 earliest possible period the truths of health  
and holiness. Children are more tractable than adults,  
and learn more readily to love the simple verities that will  
27 make them happy and good.

Children's  
tractability

## 18. SH 62:4–26

The entire education of children should be such as to  
form habits of obedience to the moral and spiritual law,  
6 with which the child can meet and master the belief in so-  
called physical laws, a belief which breeds disease.

If parents create in their babes a desire for incessant  
9 amusement, to be always fed, rocked, tossed, or talked  
to, those parents should not, in after years,  
complain of their children's fretfulness or fri-  
12 volity, which the parents themselves have occasioned.  
Taking less “thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or  
what ye shall drink”; less thought “for your body what  
15 ye shall put on,” will do much more for the health of the  
rising generation than you dream. Children should be  
allowed to remain children in knowledge, and should  
18 become men and women only through growth in the  
understanding of man's higher nature.

Inheritance  
heeded

We must not attribute more and more intelligence  
21 to matter, but less and less, if we would be wise and  
healthy. The divine Mind, which forms the  
bud and blossom, will care for the human  
body, even as it clothes the lily; but let no mortal inter-

The Mind  
creative

24 fere with God's government by thrusting in the laws of  
erring, human concepts.

## 19. SH 67:32

The epoch approaches when the  
1 understanding of the truth of being will be the basis of  
true religion. At present mortals progress slowly for  
3 fear of being thought ridiculous. They are  
slaves to fashion, pride, and sense. Some-  
time we shall learn how Spirit, the great architect, has  
6 created men and women in Science. We ought to weary  
of the fleeting and false and to cherish nothing which  
hinders our highest selfhood.

Basis of true  
religion

## 20. SH 593:20

**SALVATION.** Life, Truth, and Love understood and  
21 demonstrated as supreme over all; sin, sickness, and  
death destroyed.

## 21. SH 150:4

To-day the healing power of Truth is widely demon-  
strated as an immanent, eternal Science, instead of a  
6 phenomenal exhibition. Its appearing is the  
coming anew of the gospel of "on earth peace,  
good-will toward men." This coming, as was promised  
9 by the Master, is for its establishment as a permanent  
dispensation among men; but the mission of Christian  
Science now, as in the time of its earlier demonstration,  
12 is not primarily one of physical healing. Now, as then,  
signs and wonders are wrought in the metaphysical heal-  
ing of physical disease; but these signs are only to demon-  
15 strate its divine origin, — to attest the reality of the higher  
mission of the Christ-power to take away the sins of the  
world.

The main  
purpose