

Worship Service at Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist – Chicago
October 5, 2016

Opening Hymn

57 Father, to Thee we turn away from sorrow

Introduction

“It’s not a police issue, it’s a society issue. You know, impoverished neighborhoods, people without hope do these kinds of things. You show me a man that doesn’t have hope and I’ll show you a man who’s willing to pick up a gun and do anything with it.” —Eddie Johnson, Police Superintendent of Chicago

from Chicago Tonight’s Special Edition “Violence in Chicago” September 20, 2016

<http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2016/09/20/violence-chicago-special-edition-chicago-tonight>

Subject

Reclaiming Our HOPE

Surely there is a future, and our hope will not be cut off.
Proverbs 23:18

Passages from the Bible, New Revised Standard Version

Lamentations

“Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the LORD.”

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is the Lord’s faithfulness.

[Lamentations 3:18-23](#)

Psalms

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. My tears have been my food day and night.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause! For you are the God in whom I take refuge; O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

[Psalms 42-43](#)

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow.

[Psalms 146:1-10](#)

[Jeremiah](#)

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

[Jeremiah 17:7-8](#)

[First Peter](#)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold, that though perishable, is tested by fire—(that it) may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

[I Peter 1:3-7](#)

[First John](#)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. Beloved, we are God's children now; And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

[I John 3](#)

[Second Thessalonians](#)

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

[II Thes. 2:16,17](#)

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

The nature of Christianity is peaceful and blessed, but in order to enter into the kingdom, the anchor of hope must be cast beyond the veil of matter into the Shekinah into which Jesus has passed before us; and this advance beyond matter must come through the joys and triumphs of the righteous as well as through their sorrows and afflictions. Like our Master, we must depart from material sense into the spiritual sense of being.

40:31-7

If the five corporeal senses were the medium through which to understand God, then palsy, blindness, and deafness would place man in a terrible situation, where he would be like those "having no hope, and without God in the world;" but as a matter of fact, these calamities often drive mortals to seek and to find a higher sense of happiness and existence.

486:27-2

Against the fatal beliefs that error is as real as Truth, that evil is equal in power to good if not superior, and that discord is as normal as harmony, even the hope of freedom from the bondage of sickness and sin has little inspiration to nerve endeavor. When we come to have more faith in the truth of being than we have in error, more faith in Spirit than in matter, more faith in living than in dying, more faith in God than in man, then no material suppositions can prevent us from healing the sick and destroying error.

368:10

The fact that Truth overcomes both disease and sin reassures depressed hope.

420:17

As human thought changes from one stage to another of conscious pain and painlessness, sorrow and joy, — from fear to hope and from faith to understanding, — the visible manifestation will at last be man governed by Soul, not by material sense.

125:12-16

Man walks in the direction towards which he looks, and where his treasure is, there will his heart be also. If our hopes and affections are spiritual, they come from above, not from beneath, and they bear as of old the fruits of the Spirit.

451:14-18

Spiritual sense, contradicting the material senses, involves intuition, hope, faith, understanding, fruition, reality. Material sense expresses the belief that mind is in matter. This human belief, alternating between a sense of pleasure and pain, hope and fear, life and death, never reaches beyond the boundary of the mortal or the unreal. When the real is attained, which is announced by Science, joy is no longer a trembler, nor is hope a cheat.

298:13-20

Glory be to God, and peace to the struggling hearts! Christ hath rolled away the stone from the door of human hope and faith, and through the revelation and demonstration of life in God, hath elevated them to possible at-one-ment with the spiritual idea of man and his divine Principle, Love.

[45:16](#)

The author has endeavored to make this book the Aesculapius (es-Q-lay-p-us) of mind as well as of body, that it may give hope to the sick and heal them, although they know not how the work is done. Truth has a healing effect, even when not fully understood.

[152:5-9](#)

Hymn

389 While Thou, O My God, art my help and defender

Sharing

Closing Hymn

203 O Father, may we bear each hour