

February 2024

Fern Lodge

I N S I G H T



“First in the list of Christian duties, he taught his followers the healing power of Truth and Love.”

(Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy)



This year we are excited to introduce the *Fern Lodge Insight*! This will be a way to give you Fern Lodge news and bite-sized blasts of inspiration that don't make it into our standard newsletter. We hope this will bring new ideas and brightness to your day!



FernLodgeCS FernLodgeCSN

18457 Madison Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546
fernlobby.org (510) 886-2448 info@fernlobby.org

Yoke of Christ

As we continue to consider the meaning of Jesus’ parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25, we may well ask what it means to be a sheep in Christ’s flock. In Matthew 11, Jesus tells us:

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (v. 29, 30)

What is Christ’s yoke? And why should we want to wear it?

According to the 1913 Webster’s dictionary, a yoke is “a frame of wood fitted to a person’s shoulders for carrying pails, etc., suspended on each side; as, a milkmaid’s yoke.” At first glance, a yoke seems like a heavy thing, something that will burden us or weigh us down. But that can’t be Jesus’ meaning, for he says that his “yoke is easy,” his “burden is light.” He promises that if we wear his yoke, we will “find rest.” We will find peace and harmony for our souls [spiritual sense].

What might this mean? A yoke has two ends and helps us bear twin burdens. In this passage, Jesus tells us that we will learn two things when we wear his yoke: what it means to be meek and what it means to be “lowly in heart” [humble].

Jesus was extraordinarily meek and humble. Mrs. Eddy says he “was the meekest man on earth” (MW 163). She also says that his “humble prayers were deep and conscientious protests of Truth”(SH 12), and she quotes his statement: “Whosoever... shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Mis. 337).

Jesus’ beatitudes clarify the relationship between meekness and humility. The third beatitude reads: “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.” This beatitude clearly pairs with the first, which reads: “Blessed are the poor in spirit [humble]: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Taken together, these beatitudes point the way to the kingdom of heaven on earth.

But if this is true, why would Jesus imply that meekness and humility are a yoke? To mortal thought, meekness and humility are heavy burdens, for they require a denial of mortal self.

What might meekness and humility mean in the example of Jesus’ life? Meekness includes a quality of submission, as can be seen in Jesus’ statement, “Not my will, but Thine be done.” Humility includes a modest assessment of one’s own ability, as can be seen another of Jesus’ statements: “I can of mine own self do nothing.” To this, he later adds: “But with God all things are possible.” These statements suggest a Christlike standard of meekness and humility. In this sense, these qualities are in fact the lightest burden, for they allow us to lay down the heavy burdens of a mortal sense of material ego and self. Christ’s two-sided yoke aligns us fully with God. We then find peace, a lighter sense of being, find rest for our souls.



How does this insight relate to Christian Science nursing? A genuine Christian Science nurse should be, above all things, genuinely meek and humble, willing to walk fully in the Way of Christ, wholly submissive to God’s will. The genuine Christian Science nurse knows she can do nothing without God. In this humility and meekness, the true Christian Science nurse finds peace and brings peace to her patient. The Christian Science nurse finds true rest in active obedience to Christ, and the work then approximates the restful action of God on the seventh day of creation, when He saw everything He had made and knew that it was “very good” — truly good, irrevocably good. A Christian Science nurse who bears witness to God’s creation in this way will have a healing effect on all those around her. The Christian Science nurse who bears Christ’s yoke is blessed and will be a blessing.

This then is Christ’s work. This is Christ’s yoke. This is what it means to be a sheep in Christ’s flock. We thereby receive the blessing Christ bestows on his sheep in Matthew 25, on the sheep who willingly serve Christ’s flock. Meekness and humility signify the complete dominion of heaven here on earth. Meekness and humility set us free.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matt. 11:29, 30)


Brad Stock



Welcome Jade and Genevieve to Fern Lodge!

Please join us in welcoming two new staff members to our facility. Jade Afad’i has come on as a new Co-Director of Christian Science Nursing to help ensure the quality and effectiveness of our patient care. He comes to us with over a decade of experience in Christian Science nursing and leadership, and we’re grateful for all he is bringing to Fern Lodge.

Genevieve Bergeson is joining our office as Assistant Administrator. She will help maintain order and smooth operations on the business side of Fern Lodge. She’s worked at Principia and, most recently, Tenacre in New Jersey. In the short time she’s been here, she has already accomplished much and brought great energy and organization to the office.

Here at Fern Lodge, we are always grateful to welcome new members to the team. Jade and Genevieve are both great fits for our facility, and we appreciate all they are bringing to Fern Lodge and Christian Science nursing as a whole. Welcome!



Donations

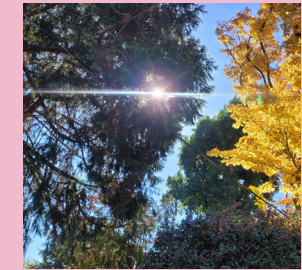
If you would like to donate to Fern Lodge, you can send a check or go to fernlodge.org/donation. You can also donate stock, include us in your estate planning, or come volunteer. We value your support. Thank you!

Mark the Date for our Annual Meeting!

We are pleased to announce our annual meeting for 2024. It will be on April 7th at 2 PM at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Danville. Our guest speaker will be Ann Kneeland, C.S., and the talk is “The Healing Power of Spiritual Witnessing.” We are very excited for this meeting and hope to see many of you there!

Check out our new Social Media!

This year we are revitalizing our Facebook and launching our Instagram! We love to share our photos, news, and spiritual inspiration with you, and this will be a way to do it more often. Come check out what we’ve already posted!





Fern Lodge.

18457 Madison Avenue
Castro Valley, CA 94546

www.fern lodge.org

Phone (510) 886-2448

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Annual Meeting 2024

The Healing Power of Spiritual Witnessing

When: April 7th, 2-3:30 PM

Where: First Church of Christ, Scientist
650 Danville Blvd, Danville, CA 94526

“Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man,
who appeared to him where sinning mortal
man appears to mortals. In this perfect man
the Saviour saw God’s own likeness, and this
correct view of man healed the sick.”

Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy