

The Greater Light

The End Time Messenger

“... Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed Repentance and Baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that THE GREATER LIGHT might come to them.”
Message 53:3

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Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas!

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”
-Luke 2:11 & 14



The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message
THE ASSURED WAY OF THE LORD, Inc.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND EUROPE

VOLUME 20 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2022 NUM. 11/12

Articles of Faith and Practice

1. We believe in God the Eternal Father, who only is Supreme; Creator of the universe; Ruler and Judge of all; unchangeable and without respect of persons.

2. We believe in Jesus Christ the manifestation of God in flesh, who lived, suffered, and died for all mankind; whom we own as our only Leader, Witness, and Commander.

3. We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, reveals this to come, and is the medium by which we receive the revelation of Jesus Christ.

4. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression, and that as a consequence of the atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the Law. For the power of redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, cannot repent, and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:22)

5. We believe that through the atonement of Christ all men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel; viz.: Faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Laying on of Hands for: (a) Ordination; (b) Blessing of Children: (c) Confirmation and the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17); (d) Healing of the sick.

6. We believe in the literal second coming and millennial reign of Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the Dead, and in Eternal Judgment; that men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.

7. We believe in the powers and gifts of the everlasting Gospel; viz.: The word of wisdom; the word of knowledge; the gift of faith; the gift of healing; working of miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits; divers kinds of tongues; interpretation of tongues.

8. We believe the fruits of the Spirit to be love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

9. We believe that in the Bible is contained the Word of God; that The Record of the Nephites is the added witness for Christ; and these contain the "fullness of the gospel."

10. We believe in the principle of continuous revelation; that the canon of scripture is not full, that God inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom He may choose.

11. We believe that where there are six or more regularly baptized members, one of whom is an elder, there the Church exists with full power of Church extension when acting in harmony with the Law of God.

12. We believe that man must be called of God by revelation and ordained by those having authority, to enable him to preach the Gospel and administer the Ordinances thereof.

13. We believe in the same Church organization as existed in the time of Christ and His apostles. The highest office in the Church is that of an apostle, of whom there are twelve, who constitute special witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have the Missionary Supervision and the General Watchcare of all the Churches.

14. The primary function of the General Church, of which each Local Church is a component part, is missionary and the building up and extension of the Kingdom of God in all

the world.

15. We believe that Local Churches should govern their own affairs and that General Church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to the Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby.

16. We believe The Church of Christ comprehends the true brotherhood of man where each esteems his brother as himself and wherein the Divine command to "love your neighbor as yourself" is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.

17. We believe that all men are stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of stewardship is not the increase of church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of the common fatherhood and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustments that each may enjoy the bounty and gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.

18. We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents. Ministers of the Gospel are not absolved from this responsibility, but when chosen or appointed by the Church to devote their entire time to missionary work, their families are to be provided for out of the General Church fund. The admonition of Christ that ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but good trusting in God and the people, is applicable.

19. We believe that the temporal affairs of the General Church are to be administered by the general bishopric under the supervision and direction of general conferences of the Church. The temporal affairs of the Local Churches shall be administered by local bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.

20. We believe that marriage is ordained of God, and that the Law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of a breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.

21. We believe oppose to war. Men are not justified in taking up of arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.

22. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, and in the restoration of the ten lost tribes.

23. We believe a Temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will reveal Himself and endow His servants whom He chooses with power to preach the Gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue, and people, that the promise of God to Israel may be fulfilled.

24. We believe that New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land "unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, (Ether 13:4-8; III Nephi 10:17), which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot."

25. We believe that ministry and membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics, and should not affiliate with any society which administer oaths or covenants in conflict with the Law of God, or which interfere with their duties as freemen and citizens.

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OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION
 The Church Of Christ With the Elijah Message
 The Assured Way Of The Lord , Inc.

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THE GREATER LIGHT is posted on the website bimonthly by *The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way of The Lord, INC.* 4224 South Hocker Dr, Bldg. 11-Suite 104, Independence, MO 64055.

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know and a hard copy will be mailed to you.

Message 53.3, "Give ear, Oh ye people of the earth. Hear The Warning today. I speak The Words and Will of The Lord. Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed repentance and baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that **THE GREATER LIGHT** might come to them."

Message 53.10, "Yea, I have brought a Warning and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful even all who hear, for The Lord's Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ's Words that shall judge all men."

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It is the agreement of *The Quorum of Twelve of this Church*, that no Minister is to Ordain any man into *The Ministry* until said candidate has with all his heart and soul confessed he agrees with everything written in *The Articles of Faith and Practice*.

It is each Elder's duty to Seek Guidance from and to keep The Territorial Apostle informed of his works in the region he is laboring.

Secretary For The Twelve

FOREWORD

THE GREATER LIGHT, the official publication of *The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way of The Lord, Inc.*, comes to YOU as an expression of a united people, whose only aim is to promote *The Cause of Christ* by spreading abroad to every nation, tongue and people, *The True Gospel of Christ* that through Obedience to His Laws we might be found worthy of *Eternal Life*.

In this publication, *The Record of The Nephites* is quoted many times. This Book was Revealed and Translated by *The Gift and Power of God*: the year 1829 marked the beginning of *The Restoration of all things*. It is history of the people who once lived in the region around *The Great Lakes*, some of whom are Ancestors of The Native Americans. Though it contains a Record of two other groups of people who once lived here, it is for the most part a Record of The People of Nephi.

The Messages so often mentioned in this publication are Messages from The Lord, brought to earth by His Chosen Servant, John

The Baptist, who comes to earth in a Glorified Body to finish The Work given to him of God; that of Restoring all things (Matthew 17: 11-13). The Angel first came in 1829, and Restored *The Authority of the Son of God*, that *The Church of Christ* might be Established as in The Days of The Apostles.

In 1927, The Angel Messenger again appeared, and on numerous subsequent visits, has brought to us *The Word of The Lord* that *The Church of Christ* might be set in Order, that a people might be Prepared to be *The Bride of Christ*. This is *The Elijah Message* so many have looked for, *The Midnight Cry* has been Proclaimed, *A Warning of Destruction*, but to *The People of The Lord*, a Message that Christ's soon Coming is near at hand. Fear God and give *Glory to His Name*, for *The Hour of His Judgement* has come. Awake those that sleepest and Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you *Light*.

We hope that whosoever reads these pages might make it a matter of Prayer and Fasting in Humility before God, that they may know for themselves, that God has again Spoken and Revealed *His Will* from Heaven. To this end, we Dedicate *The Greater Light*.

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Thank you.

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY

To All People

Eighty-Fourth Message

The Messenger, John the Baptist, a resurrected being, appeared in my room, November 3, 1966, at 1:30 a.m. and was with me over two hours. He gave the following Message. He was clothed with the same white robe he wore on previous visits. The room was full of light, no shadows anywhere. He was powerful in his voice, and a flame of the Spirit of God issued from him. He stood by my side and began giving the Message. He then sat on the bed as I sat on a chair by the table. He spoke a sentence at a time repeating to see that each word was accurate, as he spoke it. He left at 3:45 a. m. The following is the Message.

- W.A. Draves

1. "Behold! Arise and write the Message I will give you. I come at the Lord's appointing. I come from His presence. I bring His Words. I speak His Will.

2. I am the servant of the Lord. I am the forerunner of the Christ. I am he to prepare the Way. I give the Word in due season. I speak in the Spirit and Power of God, of the Elias, the Assured Way, a Fountain of Truth. I am clothed with Light for a covering. The words I speak are eternal words. I speak the Words of Christ, the Living God. His Words shall judge you in the last day. Shape your lives by the words I bring and it will be well with you. This is the Assured Way of the Lord.

3. Let the Church and all men respect the resurrection, for with it there is hope for all mankind. Come together and worship on the first day of the week— but remember God always. Keep the Lord's day Holy.

4. Be wise in works and humble in your talk and the Lord will direct in all things.

5. When the fruit is ripe, then is the time to pluck. He that gathereth when the

harvest is not ripe— it wasteth away and their labor is in vain.

6. Keep the faith and endure and the Sunlight of Righteousness shall arise over you, with healing In His wings and ye shall be preserved in the hour when trials are upon you. Deliverance will come. Command Peace and it will bring you through.

7. God is love. My Message is one of love. Keep the mellowing Spirit in your hearts. Many are moved by the Power of God. Many have been touched by the Spirit of the Lord. Many represent Christ and are ready for this Work. They that are for us are not against us.

8. I bring the authority and trust. I give the opening of the Way for the flow of God to come unto mankind. I have given the Holy Priesthood after the order of God, after the order of His Son. This authority was given and relayed on unto the Church and the ministry of The Church of Christ, the Church with my Message, the Elijah Message, ordained in 1829 upon the heads of Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery and reiterated a hundred years later to Otto Fetting, an apostle in the remnant the Lord had preserved on the Temple Lot.

9. Oh, that all mankind would hear my words and obey. Light and Life would come to them for the Christ is the Ruler and Judge of all.

10. You will see the powers at work. Churches will unite, there will be uniting of forces. Those seeking truth will flow into this Way. The greater your understanding, the greater the Light shall be and the greater will be your work.

11. My work is that Israel might be gathered and Joseph brought to understanding.

12. Seek out, acquire and restore with meekness those that are humble, repentant and full of love. If they will come to Doctrine and Truth and refrain from teaching of men and traditions that will not save you

but the Gospel of Christ of redemption and salvation unto eternity of eternal hope with God— preaching Christ and Him crucified and resurrected.

13. It is finished, no more the old law of burning of sacrifices on the altar and its split bloods, the worship of day or days. But keep ye the Lord's day, the first day of the week for worship and service in respect to the resurrection. Herein was the gospel restored to a nation and nations bringing forth fruits thereof.

14. Mankind cannot lift himself. He cannot be self-appointed. His works will not stand the test.

15. 'Behold!' saith the Lord, 'I have sent My Messenger to speak My Will. My Words shall not return unto Me void but shall bring forth. There shall be those with faith when I come to earth to reign.

16. I am He that is called I AM. I am the Great White Spirit. I am He that is called Shiloh. I am all in all. I am the only Living God, Creator of the universe, Ruler and Judge of all. I am the Chief Corner Stone. I am the Stone the builders rejected. I am the Christ, the Son of Man.

17. I am God. I change not. I am He that was called Jehovah. I am Jesus Christ. I am the Beginning and the End. I am Alpha an Omega, the First and the Last. I am the Lord. I am He that was manifested in the flesh, in the flesh— death and resurrection. I am He that is risen. I am the Lord God.

18. All they that hear Me and learn of Me, hearing My Decrees and obey, shall have right to eternity with Me, your Lord God Christ forever.

19. I am He that formed the Heavens and the earth and all things that in them are. I am He that placed man in the garden and preserved Noah over the flood. I am He that chose Abraham for his great faith. His seed is as the sands of the sea-shores, innumerable. I am He that led Israel through the

Red Sea and over Jordan and I will deliver My people today, if they will watch and pray and serve Me, your Master and Lord God.

20. When mankind will learn of Me, he shall be lifted from darkness unto Light and Power— and hearing Me I will hear him and heal your souls and your lands.

21. You will see many fall on the one hand and many more on the left because of the works of satan. They will not hear because of the teachings and pride of men, the traditions of men,' saith the Lord.

22. Lo, the evil is at work and will do all he can to destroy— and that though mankind and though some that claim to love the Lord.

23. Fear not, the Lord will raise up those to defend this Cause. Even now, the great power of peace and deliverance is coming and at work, yea, even till the Bridegroom comes and the door is shut.

24. All those that shall be there, those that shall be with Him are they that have had their lamps trimmed and burning; their lives arrayed in righteousness, their vessels filled with oil, their lives and works filled with the Spirit of God. Their works show their faith, shaped by the words I bring. None shall stand, none shall endure that will not heed the words I bring for I bring a restoration and restitution of all things— the Holy Priesthood of God after the order of God, manifested in the flesh decreed from the beginning— stretching out the Heavens, the earth to her former beauty, the waters above the firmament as well as in the deep.

25. The day comes when there shall be a new Heaven and a new earth. Sin shall not be there for there will be no more satan.

26. Behold! The Work is in the hands of the faithful. I give charge that you see that it is directed humbly and in love. The work you do will be recorded in Heaven. That which you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven. That which you loose shall be

loosed in Heaven. Those that do or have spoken lightly and bitter of this Work— their charge and responsibility they betray and it is taken from them. Therefore, they have no part in the sacred Work of the Lord. They walk in darkness at noonday.

27. See those that grope in darkness because they will not or do not study. Many are called, some faithful, some have been ordained yet they are slow to prepare themselves to be leaders. The desires of their hearts are not yet filled— nor the Lord's Will obeyed.

28. Set none apart that will not come to Doctrine and seek to defend all the words I bring, for I bring Light. The earth shall be filled with the Light I bring.

29. I bring the everlasting Gospel. It is Christ's Words that shall judge all mankind. Those that hear you will hear me and the words I bring from the Lord.

30. The day comes when all that serve the Lord will become a delightsome people, made white through the righteousness of their obedience to the Lord, the Ensample, the Lamb of God.

31. The heat of the sun shall no more burn upon their faces for the Lord shall be the Light upon them.

32. Worship and find the gift. The Gospel is salvation to the faithful, hope in eternity with the Lord. They that bring forth fruit shall find peace and rest from all their labors— peace in their hearts of God towards all men.

33. 'Oh! I would that mankind would hear My Words today as delivered by Mine Angel and humble themselves.

34. Oh! Do they not know the storms of life will bring them low— the hard of heart, the haughty, the high-minded? I will be slow to hear their cry. They speak lightly of My Injunctions and Words of Instructions and come not to Doctrine and My Decrees.'

35. There are those that say I have not spoken, but I come that mankind may find

a way and learn deliverance. There is safety in the obeying the words I bring.

36. The ideals in man's heart will fade away. The Great Truth and the Church in Her bright garments must shine and stand forth. This is Light and Truth that Jesus is the Christ the Eternal God.

37. For the faithful, the sojourn in the wilderness is nearing and end, the gentile times are closing in. The day comes when it will be said, 'The people of the Lord' and them that serve Him not. Be ye repentant and the Lord will hear and heal all the weak and make you strong.

38. How oft have I told you, worry not over what men may say of you. The Lord knows your repentance and your righteous desires to ever be in His Will. You have done the Lord's bidding in the establishing the Church and it's Holy Priesthood authority according to the laws of the land. The Church of Christ in deed and works. The Church With the Elijah Message, set in 1829 by my hands when the Holy Priesthood authority was restored and kept sacred through the branch and remnant on the Temple Lot and reaffirmed upon Otto Fetting in his day— and I continue to come. Be delivered from the sins and traditions of men and lifted from the awful curse the prophet of old told of, lest the Lord should smite the earth and all men be in vain.

39. He cometh who is the Deliverer. I am His forerunner. I am the Elias. I bring His Message of Love. The carnal mind of man cannot understand— but the Spiritual shall understand and fold into this Way.

40. The Lord has many in reserve and many He has touched by His Spirit— even, sending ministering angels that men might be prepared.

41. Let the Work continue everywhere.

42. The Lord has brought the Message to His servant Tommy Gargus. He shall come into this Work and let him be set apart an elder, moreover an evangelist. Let

him continue his good works for the Lord has established him. With this authority and trust he will bring many to salvation. The Lord has healed and reserved him.

43. Let David Pack and David Roberts know they are called of God. Great good will come from their faithful works.

44. Let Floyd Tippet and Charles Pittman be added to the elders, and W.A. Pack and Charles Pack to the elders and evangelists when they take up this Work. The Lord will fill them with His Spirit and great good will come from humble prayer.

45. Keep peace in the Church and unfold the Mysteries as God gives to you. Teach the Decrees. Hold the Standard high. Do all that you can. Many souls will learn Life and Obedience through your good works. As I speak to you I speak to all. I will come again. I will direct the Work of the Lord.

46. Peace be with you. Amen.”

Articles

Thankfulness

Oladawn Thompson

Here are a few Bible scriptures on Thankfulness and praise in this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. I thought you might like these. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and may your Christmas be blessed.

I Thessalonians 5:18, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God, in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Philippians 4:6, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God.”

Psalms 7:17, “I will praise the Lord ac-

ording to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the Lord most high.”

Psalms 107:1, “O give thanks unto the Lord, for his is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.”

Ephesians 5:20, “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

James 1:17, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

Psalms 100:1-5, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

2. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

3. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

Psalms 50:14, “Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High.”

Isaiah 12:1, “And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.” (Please read the rest of the chapter.)

Hebrews 13:15, “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”

Psalms 116:12, “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?”

Colossians 3:15, “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

II Corinthians 2:14, “Now thanks be

unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

Psalms 31:19, “Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!”

Let us praise God in Thanksgiving like The Record of the Nephites states in the Book of Alma 34:37-38 “And now, my beloved brethren, I desire that ye should remember these things, and that ye should work out your salvation with fear before God, and that ye should no more deny the coming of Christ;

38. That ye contend no more against the Holy Ghost, but that ye receive it, and take upon you the name of Christ; that ye humble yourselves even to the dust, and worship God, in whatsoever place ye may be in, in Spirit and in truth; and that ye live in thanksgiving daily, for the many mercies and blessing which he doth bestow upon you.”

Let us Rejoice to stand together! Praise God for all our blessing! “Let there be peace in your gatherings and the weakness will turn to love and strength. Arise from lethargy. Swing wide the gate. Let the Lord’s people come all the way to this plan of deliverance—receive a new heart and abundance of God’s Spirit and deliverance will be made sure.” Message 107:13.

A Sign Was Given

Helaman 14:1-13, “And now it came to pass that Samuel, the Lamanite, did prophesy a great many more things which cannot be written.

2. And behold, he said unto them, Behold, I give unto you a sign; for five years

more cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem all those who shall believe on his name.

3. And behold, this will I give unto you for a sign at the time of his coming; for behold, there shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall appear and to man as if it was day.

4. Therefore there shall be one day and a night, and a day, as if it were one day, and there were no night; and this shall be unto you for a sign; for ye shall know of the rising of the sun, and also of its setting; therefore they shall know of a surety that there shall be two days and a night; nevertheless the night shall not be darkened; and it shall be the night before he is born.

5. And behold there shall a new star arise, such an one as ye have never beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you.

6. And behold this is not all, there shall be many signs and wonders in heaven.

7. And it shall come to pass that ye shall all be amazed, and wonder, insomuch that ye shall fall to the earth.

8. And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall believe on the Son of God, the same shall have everlasting life.

9. And behold, thus hath the Lord commanded me, by his Angel, that I should come and tell this thing unto you; yea, he hath commanded that I should prophesy these things unto you; yea, he had said unto me, Cry unto this people, repent and prepare the way of the Lord.

10. And now because I am a Lamanite, and have spoken that you the words which the Lord hath commanded me, and because it was hard against you, ye are angry with me and do seek to destroy me, and have cast me out from among you.

11. And ye shall hear my words, for, for this intent I have come up upon the walls of this city, that ye might hear and know of

the judgments of God which do await you because of your iniquities, and also that ye might know the conditions of repentance.

12. And also that you might know of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and the earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and that ye might know of the signs of his coming, to the intent that ye might believe on his name.

13. And if ye believe on his name, ye will repent of all your sins, and thereby ye may have a remission of them through his merits.”

III Nephi 1:4-22, “And it came to pass that in the commencement of the ninety and second year, behold, the prophecies of the prophets began to be fulfilled more fully; for there began to be greater signs and greater miracles wrought among the people.

5. But there were some which began to say that the time was pass for the words to be fulfilled, which was spoken by Samuel, the Lamanite.

6. And they began to rejoice over their brethren, saying, Behold the time is past, and the words of Samuel are not fulfilled; therefore, your joy and your faith concerning this thing, hath been vain.

7. And it came to pass that they did make a great uproar throughout the land; and the people which believed, began to be very sorrowful, lest by any means those things which had been spoken might not come to pass.

8. But behold, they did watch steadfastly for that day, and that night, and that day, what shall be as one day, as if there were no night, that they might know that their faith had not been vain.

9. Now it came to pass that there was a day set apart by the unbelievers, that all those who believed in those traditions should be put to death, except the signs

should come to pass which had been given by Samuel the prophet.

10. Now it came to pass that when Nephi, the son Nephi, saw this wickedness of his people, his heart was exceedingly sorrowful.

11. And it came to pass that he went out and bowed himself down upon the earth, and cried mightily to his God, in behalf of his people; yea, those which were about to be destroyed because of their faith in the traditions of their father.

12. And it came to pass that he cried mightily into the Lord, all the day; and behold, the voice of the Lord came unto him, saying.

13. Lift up your head and be of good cheer, for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow, come I into the world, to shew unto the world that I will fulfill all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets.

14. Behold, I come into my own, to fulfill all things which I have made known unto the children of men, from the foundations of the world, and do the will, both of the Father, and of the Son; of the Father because of me; and of the Son because of my flesh. And behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given.

15. And it came to pass that the words which came unto Nephi was fulfilled, according as they had been spoken; for behold at the going down of the sun, there was no darkness; and the people began to be astonished, because there was no darkness when night came.

16. And there were many, which had not believed the words of the prophets, fell to the earth and became as if they were dead, for they knew that the great plan of destruction which they had laid for those who believed in the word of the prophets, had been frustrated; for the sign which had been given was already at hand.

17. And they began to know that the Son of God must shortly appear; yea, in fine, all the people unto the face of the whole earth from the west to the east, both in the land north and the land south, were so exceedingly astonished that they fell to the earth.

18. For they knew that the prophets had testified of these things for many years, and that the sign which had been given was already at hand; and they began to fear because of their iniquity and their unbelief.

19. And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it was mid-day. And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order; and they knew that it was the day and the Lord should be born, because of the sign which had been given.

20. And it had come to pass, yea, all things, every whit, according to the words of the prophets.

21. And it came to pass also, that a new star did appear, according to the word.

22. And it came to pass that from this time forth, there began to be lyings sent forth among the people by Satan to harden their hearts to the intent that they might not believe in those signs and wonders which they had seen; but notwithstanding these lyings and deceivings, the more part of the people did believe, and were converted unto the Lord.”

1 Nephi 11:13-21, “And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white.

14. And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he saith unto me, Nephi, what beholdest thou?

15. And I said unto him, A virgin, most

beautiful and fair above all other virgins.

16. And he saith unto me, Knowest thou the condescension of God?

17. And I said unto him, I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things.

18. And he said unto me, Behold the virgin which thou seest, is the mother of God, after the manner of the flesh.

19. And I came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit; and after she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time, the angel spake unto me, saying, Look!

20. And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.

21. And the angel said unto me, Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Eternal Father!...”

My Christmas Prayer

By Nat Olson

Submitted by Ellen Draves

Dear Lord, my heart overflows with Thanks to You for all *The Good Gifts* You have given me. For friends and family who share their Love with me. For a future filled with Hope, because it rests in Your Hands. For Peace of Mind which goes beyond all my understanding.

How drab, how empty life would be without those Gifts!

And Dear Lord, accept my thanks for the tangible things of life. For a place to live, for transportation, for food, for finances and for all those other necessities of modern living.

Thank You, too, for those extra Gifts which go beyond necessity. For fun things and fancy things, for things that delight the mind and lift the heart. For all the beauty of Your Creation, I Thank You!

But most of all, Dear Lord, Thank You

for coming to this earth, to Live, to Love, to Die, and Live again.

Thank You for becoming a man, closed in a Body that got tired and worn, understanding how I so often feel. Thank You for Promising that You are The Way, The Truth, and The Life. And that through receiving You, I may Live with You in Your House, content in Your Love forever.

In The Name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and my Savior, I pray. Amen!

The Spirit Of Christmas

By William A Draves

The word *'Spirit'* has many different meanings, to some it means Life or Soul, to others it is the feeling or motivating part of man's mind. Many times the high school students interprets *'Spirit'* as enthusiasm, loyalty, and vigor one has for his school. Another meaning is *The True Intentions*, the pervading or prevailing essential of an event. *'The Spirit of Christmas'* also has many different interpretations to many people, we hope to present some of the meanings of *'The Spirit of Christmas'* through song.

Christmas is a time to be happy, and have a *'Holly Jolly Christmas'*. Christmas is sitting before an open fire, girls dreaming of mistletoe and boys thinking of candy, popcorn and turkey. Christmas is a time of sharing and giving, a time to hear Christmas music, sing carols, and hear *'The Christmas Bells'* rings. To the small ones, Santa Clause has become one of the prevailing meanings of Christmas; while others think of Christmas as a family time when everyone will be *'Home for the Holidays'*.

Yet when Christmas Eve rolls around many start to forget about the hustle and

bustle of the Christmas Season, worrying about that certain gift for a certain person, and once again realize that *'True Intentions'* or *'Real Meaning'* of Christmas. Thoughts turn once again to *'The Birth of The Christ Child'* and the surroundings of This Wondrous Happening. They recall that *'Holy Night'* in Bethlehem with *'The Star Shining Bright'* over the stable behind The Inn, leading The Seekers to The Small Babe Lying in *'The Manger'*. With this *'Spirit of Christmas'* in their hearts and minds, they many times try to form a Christmas Prayer to offer this small Child Named Jesus. Perhaps The True Spirit of Christmas could be summed up in a simple way by the children all over the world in words of Wihla Hutson's famous Carol, which you have heard and can feel the warmth of by reviewing them. This is *'The Spirit of Christmas'*

God Loves You This Much

By Barbara (Draves) Parker

God made us all with only his word
He spoke and his word was made flesh.

Now is the time to whisper with love,
That each word you speak will refresh.

In this treasured season of God's
greatest gift
Try to make love be your goal.

Bring to each person words that uplift
And strengthen them deep in their soul.

Think for a moment of the
sweet humble birth,
Of Jesus and his light so bright.

Where stars were aligned,
and shepherds all came
To a Stable on this holy night..

Young Adults

Karen Wilkin

I'm sure you all have heard of or watched the story of "Scrooge." This story always fascinated me because of the change that took place in his heart. While the story is fictional, it still portrays how something seemingly impossible to happen, did.

Scrooge was a very selfish, self-centered man. Money was what motivated him in life. It didn't matter who he hurt, how he hurt them, how he made others feel or care about anyone but himself. Everyone thought of him as an old geezer and he had very few friends. He didn't really care as he cared only about making that money and he wasn't about to let anyone get in his way. He had a hard heart and expressed no compassion to anyone. He thought he was happy just the way he was and didn't need anything or anyone in his life, except his money.

In the story he is visited by three ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. It is through the visitations that changed his heart from cold to warm and he began to see the light of what was really important in life. The experiences brought him to an understanding of what kindness, joy and love were really about. He wanted to change and when he saw that he had another chance to change his lifestyle, he was elated and filled with joy. He turned his life around right then and began to rejoice that he had another chance to make things right. He ended up making a lot of people very happy and brought a lot of joy into their

lives. He saw the difference between the life he had been living and the life he was given a second chance to live. It was a beautiful ending to the story.

Sometimes change is hard for people, especially young people to experience. Change can be good or it can be frustrating and disappointing. Think about Mary and the change that she had to go through finding out she was going to have this little baby and his name would be Jesus. Think about what must have gone through her mind as she had to tell her betrothed Joseph about it. Talk about a big "change" for a person. But Mary didn't let any of the obstacles or challenges she faced change her mind about what God had chosen for her to do. She knew she had a mission to obey God and bring forth this little baby boy Jesus and there was nothing she would go through that God wasn't with her. She had total trust in God that He was with her all the way and although it was very hard and challenging at first, she accomplished her mission and gave birth to Jesus at the right time, and at the right place. She had to ride on a donkey while in her later months of pregnancy. She gave birth to him in a stable. But she accepted God's plan and rejoiced in God all the way through.

Think about the change Joseph went through at that time. He had to "change" in so many ways and he had to totally trust that God had a plan that included him and he had to rely on God all the way to discern and be within His will for him and Mary. But again, once he knew without a doubt that this was all in God's plan for him and Mary to bring forth this child, and call him Jesus, nothing could stop him. He stepped out in faith and looked for God to lead them, guide them and direct them, and He did.

The story of Scrooge if turned into a Spiritual story is one of a man lost, in pain, weak in faith, selfish, unhappy and misera-

ble. Then he is visited by angels in a dream and he is shown his past, his present and his future if he does not "change" his ways. He accepts Christ as his Savior and sees the light. He has a new heart now and a whole new perspective on life. His heart is now filled with joy and peace and his joy spills over to bless other people and share his happiness in a special way. I like to think of this story as the day Scrooge got saved, or the day he found Jesus.

Change comes in many different forms. Throughout life change for someone or in someone happens continuously. Have you thought about the huge changes the disciples each had to make when they decided to follow Jesus? Most of them had to sacrifice to lay aside their way of life to follow Jesus, but look what they obtained from doing so.

Look at the "changes" Noah had to make in his lifetime to accomplish the mission God had for him to do. What a task to build a huge ship that he had never even seen before or knew about. People thought he was crazy. But he didn't let that stop him because he knew God had a PLAN for him and his family and he followed through. Easy? NO!!! But he had faith that God chose him to do this gigantic task and he made it.

Now, look at Adam and Eve. They had a huge "Change" take place in their life too didn't they? However, their change came because of disobedience. They went from peace, joy, happiness in a most beautiful garden with nothing to worry about, life was wonderful for them, to a life of hardship, hard labor, problems and the thought of knowing they had disobeyed God and now was reaping what they had sown.

Remember the "change" that happened to Samson? What about the "change" for Moses's life? What about the "change" for Bro Fetting and Bro. Draves's life's? Both of these men were just normal men that

loved the Lord, then God had a plan that changed their life. Was it easy for them? NO. However, they accepted what God called for them to do and was obedient to His plan for them.

We could go on and on about the "Change" that people go through, from the Bible, the Record of the Nephites and the Word of the Lord. But each and every story in all three of those books had or have a purpose. Some were obedient and followed through while others failed and their "change" was not for the betterment of their lives.

In this season of Thanksgiving, giving God the honor and glory for all He has done for you, remember your parents and grandparents also had "changes" in their lives to raise you, support you, take care of you and follow through God's plan for their lives or they wouldn't be where they are today.

God had a plan for His son Jesus to come into this world to be born through a virgin, Mary, to live a life of sacrifice from the time he was born to his death. He had a plan and everything went according to that plan. God knew from the moment Jesus was born what his life would be like. Jesus lived a life that was pure, exemplary among men. He lived and died just as the plan was to be. He "changed" many lives He came in contact with. He "changed" the world when He died on that cross for you and me.

When "changes" come your way, you may feel overwhelmed because you are expecting too much of yourself, you may have too high of expectations of yourself or someone else, maybe you need to laugh more and worry less and take time to just breathe and let God give you peace and experience God more in your life. Changes will come, however, you can make the best of those changes if you only trust in God to keep you on the right track and keep your heart and mind open to hear His still small

voice.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22, "Rejoice evermore.

17. Pray without ceasing.

18. In every thing give THANKS; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19. Quench not the spirit.

20. Despise not prophesyings.

21. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22. Abstain from all appearance of evil."

As you ponder on the wonderful things God has blessed you with this Thanksgiving, remember to thank Him every day for all your gifts and blessings. May you sense and experience the true meaning of Christmas and ponder deeply about all the "changes" they also had to go through to be within God's will for their lives.

Junior

Theresa Ray

Merry Christmas!

I hope you are enjoying this Holiday Season. There is so much to do and so much going on that we can easily get so involved in the activities and lose focus on what Christmas is all about! We celebrate Christmas because it is the birth of Jesus – our Lord and Savior.

John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17. For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

I John 4:9, "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God

sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him."

Luke 2: 10-11 "And the Angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

So beautiful. God loves us so much that he manifested Himself in the flesh, sending His Son to show us the way. Jesus set the example for how we should live and treat others. He showed us how we should love others. That is the real key- loving others as He loves us!

Jesus is also the good Shepherd that loves and watches over His flock. If one goes astray, He seeks after that sheep. We are Jesus' sheep. Jesus does not want any of us to be lost.

John 10:14, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."

John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

Jesus calls us His friends. Message 119:6 "... Ye are My friends...."

John 15:12 -14, (Jesus is speaking) "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

That is just what Jesus did for us. He took upon himself the sins of the world – and died on the cross for us! For each of us! Through our belief in Him, serving him and enduring to the end- we can enter into the kingdom of God and have everlasting life.

Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name

shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

We are so blessed to be loved by God so much! So always remember why we celebrate Christmas! We celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Read the story of Jesus birth in Matthew 1:18-23 and Luke chapters 1 and 2.

May God bless you this Christmas! May we remember the real meaning of Christmas and how fortunate we are to be loved by Christ! May we always put Christ first in all we do at Christmastime and every day!

Love in Christ,
Sister Thresa Ray

Primary

Heart of Love Christmas Tree

*Written by Carolyn Warvel
Submitted by Ruby Draves*

I made my tree with three special hearts:
The first one reminds me of
God’s love for me.
He created me just the way
he wanted me to be.

The second one reminds me of when he
sent his son.
His wonderful plan for my salvation
had just begun.

The third heart reminds me
of that eventful day
When Jesus gave his life
so my sins can be taken away.

Materials*

1. Yellow Construction Paper
2. Green Construction Paper
3. Brown Construction Paper
4. Ribbon
5. Scissors
6. Glue
7. Hole Punch

Instructions

1. From green construction paper, cut out three hearts, each slightly bigger.
2. To make the tree, glue the hearts upside down in order of size, one on top of each other at the point with the largest one on the bottom,
3. From brown construction paper, cut a small heart and glue upside down under the largest green heart to make the trunk.
4. From yellow construction paper, cut out a star and glue at the top of your heart tree.
5. Punch a hole in the middle of the star, and lace a piece of ribbon through it.
6. Tie and hang on your tree.
7. Remember the poem to the left.

** If you do not have construction paper, you can always use wrapping paper or regular paper and crayons.*

