

Good evening everyone –

My name is Heather Libbe and I am here to speak about how a Christian Scientist might celebrate the New Year.

I'll start by sharing part of a poem written by the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, on January 1, 1910.

She says:

“O blessings infinite!
 O glad New Year!
Sweet sign & substance
 Of God's presence here.”

To me, this is such a sweet promise that each year brings infinite blessings and opportunities to feel more of God's presence.

While Christian Scientists do not have any specific New Year's rituals, the New Year holiday serves as a wonderful reminder to take time to reflect on the growth that has been experienced the previous year and look forward to all good that is to come the following year. It is an opportunity to pause for moments of self-reflection and spiritual baptism as we move forward, which can also be done daily.

I've enjoyed cherishing the following idea from the Christian Science textbook, *Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy that is read and studied by Christian Scientists in conjunction with the Bible.

It says:

“Willingness to become as a little child and to leave the old for the new, renders thought receptive of the advanced idea. Gladness to leave the false landmarks and joy to see them disappear, — this disposition helps to precipitate the ultimate harmony.” (pg 323)

In my experience, taking some time to renew a joyful expectancy of good is such a powerful way to celebrate the New Year. As I have diligently worked to cultivate a childlike willingness to leave the old for the new, I have been grateful to experience a sweet sense of progress, an increased realm of possibilities and harmonious unfoldment already this year.

I wish you all infinite blessings, gladness and sweet signs of God's presence during 2013, coupled with the fresh inspiration, newness and gratitude that can accompany each day!

Happy New Year!