

**W**e have been to the mountain top. We have seen a vision; we have conversed with one another, and we have decided. The words have been spoken: Go forth toward a house I will show you. A vision, a conversation, a journey, to HONOR THE PAST, SERVE THE PRESENT AND PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE.

Go forth and many will find blessing in you. Go forth, bear your share of the hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God. Go forth with the conviction and the deep belief that “it is good to be here,” in this place, in this house, on this mountain at this time. It is good that we together bear some hardship for the sake of what is yet to be. It is good that we, in many varied ways, are indeed called by God “*to shine with unborrowed light.*” Called to Go forth with a new vision, a loving heart and a generous spirit, we bear together the hardship of the dream with strength that comes from God, a hope of new blessings and the will to let the vision, the conversation and the decision inspire us to leave the mountain top and go to the valley below. The valley below—the place we live and work, struggle and dream; the only place, nourished by the vision, and conversation, where we can HONOR THE PAST, SERVE THE PRESENT AND PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE.

It is only in the valley of the real world, in the places we all live, in the midst of our strength and weakness, needs and gifts, that the vision and conversations on the mountain can be made flesh. From our own life and home we Honor, Serve and Provide; it is only in our own house, in the midst of our own living that we can truly hear Christ speak: “*Rise, and do not be afraid.*”

Words and a vision inspiring us to care, act, and feel the gentle touch of Jesus as we choose to make the journey from the mountain top to the real world below. A journey along ways of peace with the loving and merciful Lord leading us, a journey on which we will truly see those bound unjustly,

the many longing to be freed from hunger, hatred, and fear, and in all of them seeing “*no one else but Jesus alone.*” A journey from vision to reality, from a mountain top to a house transfigured with light making the place itself a light by which to see, a home for the many encountered on the way. A house to inspire loving service, true hospitality, healing words and caring worship; a place so strong and real, true and honest, that all who enter are transfigured; binding chains are broken; pardon for the sinner is felt; the hungry have their fill; ills are healed; and the Holy Table is made for a feast with the lowly and the least.

A house filled with the “noble simplicity” of a loving God, where the grace bestowed upon us in Christ is made manifest—that is, “seen;” a place where the glory and wonder of God is perceived in all who gather in the house for the church and in the many all around it. A home where the work of human hands bear the imprint of God’s creation; a place so true and real, a house bearing such deliberate loving care, such mountain top vision of the valley below, that those who gather, like those led to the mountain top, cannot stay, but hear again and again almost thunderous words: Go forth from this place where you are bathed in light...to a land I will show you... to the house of the many in need, to love, honor, serve and provide.

This place, this house, is a mountain top, a place from which to see into the valley, a home in which many are changed, renewed, transfigured and even blinded in a wondrous light by which is seen many gifts and needs; a place from which to see those bound, oppressed and hungry;



a house from which the song of faith echoes through the world, a place in which the prophets speak, good news is proclaimed, ancient stories are brought to life; and the command to “listen” is heard; a home where ordinary food and drink become the extraordinary promise and hope of all, making of those who eat and drink the very hands

and heart, vision and love of the one who has brought us to this mountain!

*It is good that we are here.*  
So go forth, but do not tell of the vision until you make it real!

