The Restoration of the Fulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

A Bicentennial Proclamation to the World

9-Part Study by Saving Talents

(adapted from LDSLiving.com)

We solemnly proclaim that God loves His children in every nation of the world. God the Father has given us the divine birth, the incomparable life, and the infinite atoning sacrifice of His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. By the power of the Father, Jesus rose again and gained the victory over death. He is our Savior, our Exemplar, and our Redeemer.

- o Read <u>John 3:16-17</u>
- o Watch "God Loves His Children | Now You Know"
- o Study "Hosanna and the Hallelujah" by Elder Gong
- o Listen to Calee Reed and Stephen Nelson perform "This is the Christ"

Two hundred years ago, on a beautiful spring morning in 1820, young Joseph Smith, seeking to know which church to join, went into the woods to pray near his home in upstate New York, USA. He had questions regarding the salvation of his soul and trusted that God would direct him.

- o Read Joseph Smith History 1:5-14
- o Watch "The Hope of God's Light"
- o Study "Prayers of Faith" by Elder Eyring
- o Listen to the Bonner Family perform "I Am Here"

In humility, we declare that in answer to his prayer, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph and inaugurated the "restitution of all things" (Acts 3:21) as foretold in the Bible. In this vision, he learned that following the death of the original Apostles, Christ's New Testament Church was lost from the earth. Joseph would be instrumental in its return.

- o Read <u>Acts 3:19-24</u>
- o Watch "Ask of God: Joseph Smith's First Vision"
- o Study "Hear Him" by President Nelson
- o Listen to Bishop Causse perform "Where Can I Turn for Peace?

We affirm that under the direction of the Father and the Son, heavenly messengers came to instruct Joseph and reestablish the Church of Jesus Christ. The resurrected John the Baptist restored the authority to baptize by immersion for the remission of sins. Three of the original twelve Apostles—Peter, James, and John—restored the apostleship and keys of priesthood authority. Others came as well, including Elijah, who restored the authority to join families together forever in eternal relationships that transcend death.

- o Read D&C 13 and D&C 27
- o Watch "How the Priesthood Works"
- o Study "The Melchizedek Priesthood and the Keys" by Elder Oaks
- o Listen to BYU Vocal Point perform "Praise to the Man"

We further witness that Joseph Smith was given the gift and power of God to translate an ancient record: the Book of Mormon—Another Testament of Jesus Christ. Pages of this sacred text include an account of the personal ministry of Jesus Christ among people in the Western Hemisphere soon after His Resurrection. It teaches of life's purpose and explains the doctrine of Christ, which is central to that purpose. As a companion scripture to the Bible, the Book of Mormon testifies that all human beings are sons and daughters of a loving Father in Heaven, that He has a divine plan for our lives, and that His Son, Jesus Christ, speaks today as well as in days of old.

- o Read 3 Nephi 11
- o Watch "Testimony of the Book of Mormon"
- o Study "The Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon" by Elder Soares
- o Listen to the Bonner Family perform "Liahona"

We declare that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, organized on April 6, 1830, is Christ's New Testament Church restored. This Church is anchored in the perfect life of its chief cornerstone, Jesus Christ, and in His infinite Atonement and literal Resurrection. Jesus Christ has once again called Apostles and has given them priesthood authority. He invites all of us to come unto Him and His Church, to receive the Holy Ghost, the ordinances of salvation, and to gain enduring joy.

- o Read D&C 21
- o Watch "Restoration of Christ's Church | Now You Know"
- o Study "Come and Belong" by Elder Uchtdorf
- o Listen to The Nashville Tribute Band perform "Come Unto Jesus"

Two hundred years have now elapsed since this Restoration was initiated by God the Father and His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Millions throughout the world have embraced a knowledge of these prophesied events.

- o Read D&C 33
- o Watch "Inviting Others to Come and See"
- o Study "Sharing the Message of the Restoration and the Resurrection" by Elder Christofferson
- o Listen to The Tabernacle Choir perform "The Spirit of God"

We gladly declare that the promised Restoration goes forward through continuing revelation. The earth will never again be the same, as God will "gather together in one all things in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10).

- o Read Ephesians 1
- o Watch "A Sacred Proclamation"
- Study "The Blessing of Continuing Revelation to Prophets" by Elder Cook
- o Listen to The Tabernacle Choir perform "Hark, All Ye Nations"

With reverence and gratitude, we as His Apostles invite all to know—as we do—that the heavens are open. We affirm that God is making known His will for His beloved sons and daughters. We testify that those who prayerfully study the message of the Restoration and act in faith will be blessed to gain their own witness of its divinity and of its purpose to prepare the world for the promised Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- o Read Moroni 10
- o Watch any of the "How I #HearHim" videos
- Study <u>"He Goes Before Us"</u> by Elder Eyring
- o Listen to this worldwide choir perform "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet"