



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

June 21, 2020
4th Sunday of Pentecost

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Responding to Coronavirus as individual Christians:

Be Wise: Practice good hygiene and cleanliness. If you're sick, stay home, and take an abundance of caution. Regularly wash your hands. Make wise decisions about travel, avoid large events. Consult the CDC for more information on how to prepare and be safe.

Be Calm: In Philippians 4 Paul says that in times of uncertainty and suffering we should be “anxious for nothing.” When he wrote those words, he was following Jesus’ lead (Matthew 6.25-34) in reminding us that our hope in this world is not in human economies, or medicine, or technology, or cleanliness. Our hope is in Lord, the maker of Heaven and Earth (Psalm 121). So, if you're feeling anxious or afraid over the coming weeks, remember that the God who watches over you is a God who does not slumber or sleep. He promises that He will watch over your life; your coming in and going out both now and forevermore.

Be thoughtful: Keep in mind that certain people will be impacted more than others: Be aware of those who may be “shut-in” and alone. Take a moment to think about people who might inadvertently become “invisible” and be intentional about reaching out to them.

- **Be aware of our older generation and the risks that are more relevant to them as related to the virus. Be intentional about checking up with them.**
- **Be aware of our neighbors, especially those who may be alone and/or have special needs in this context. This is a moment when the love and mercy of Christ can shine through you!**
- **Local businesses can absorb losses from people staying home less than big national chains. If you are able buy stuff from them, do so.**
- **People who work on hourly wages and those who rely on tips will probably be hurt more than those on salary. Be aware of who is confronting this and find ways to help.**
- **Health care workers: lots of people will be showing up at hospitals etc. to be checked or treated. Nurses, doctors and support staff will be pulling multiple extra shifts. Write them notes. Let them know how thankful you are for them.**

Be Prayerful: Scripture teaches that Prayer is action and when it is done through faith in Christ, the Lord can use it to move mountains and heal diseases. Therefore, let's join together during this time to pray for the Lord to guide our officials, equip our medical professionals, comfort the sick, shield the healthy, and arrest this virus from causing more harm.

Historically, Christians have been known as people of love and compassion in times of disease and illness. When smallpox came to Rome most fled to the countryside, while Christians remained in the city to care for the sick and needy. When Romans evicted their infected loved ones out of their homes, Christians were the ones who invited them in to care for them. Of course, we want to proceed with caution and wisdom in the days to come. Yet, the Church has had some of her finest moments in situations like this. Let's pray and look for opportunities to be the Presence of Christ in Milford, His means of responding with love and grace to this crisis.

REFLECTION

Celebrating the Great Commissions of God

Praises be to God

Who made the world and commanded us to fill it,
And as stewards of what belongs to Another,
To subdue and care for and develop it.

Yet our guilt plunged the good world into ruin;
It is now broken, and its form is passing away.

But blessed be Christ,
The First Man of a New Creation,
Who by his Cross and Resurrection
Has begun a New Humanity in the Spirit,
Restored to the image of its Creator.
In due time the New will swallow up the Old,
And the ancient harmony of the world will return.

For now, the Lord calls us to give ourselves
To his two Great Commissions:
Go, care for the world and develop it;
Go, preach to the world and make disciples,
Baptizing them into My Triune Name.

Sing praise to the Lord,
To Him who created the world and redeems it!

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Psalm 8

— God + calls + cleanses + speaks + strengthens + sends —

Call to Worship from Psalm 8

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

When I look at your heavens, **the work of your fingers,**

the moon and the stars, **which you have set in place**

what is man that you are mindful of him,

and the son of man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings;

and crowned him with glory and honor.

You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under his feet,

all sheep and oxen, **and also the beasts of the field,**

the birds of the heavens, **and the fish of the sea,**

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 1:26-31

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Praise Hymn Christ Shall Have Dominion

Psalm 8

Amsterdam

1. Lord, our Lord, in all the earth How ex - cel - lent Your name!
2. When I view the skies a - bove Which Your own fin - gers made,
3. Lower than the an - gels you have made man, With light and hon - or crowned.

5

You a - bove the heav'ns have set the splen - dor of Your fame.
When I see the moon and stars Which You in or - der laid,
You placed Him a - bove Your works; Be - neath him all is found;

9

From the mouths of in - fants young You the pow'r of praise com - pose
What is man so frail and weak That You should re - mem - ber him?
Ox - en, sheep, and all wild beasts, birds and fish the o - ceans claim.

13

In the face of en - e - mies to stop a - veng - ing foes.
What can be the son of man that You should care for him?
Lord, our Lord, in all the earth how ex - cel - lent Your name!

Capo 1: (D) (Em⁷) (A⁷) (Bm⁷) (A) (D)

1. Christ shall have do - min - ion o - ver land and sea, earth's re - mot - est
 2. When the need - y seek him, he will mer - cy show; yea, the weak and
 3. Ev - er and for - ev - er shall his name en - dure, long as suns con -
 4. Un - to God Al - might - y joy - ful Zi - on sings; he a - lone is

(Em⁷) (A) (E⁷) (A) (D)

re - gions shall his em - pire be; they that wilds in - hab - it shall their
 help - less shall his pit - y know; he will sure - ly save them from op -
 tin - ue it shall stand se - cure; and in him for - ev - er all men
 glo - rious, do - ing won - drous things. Ev - er - more, ye peo - ple, bless his

(G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (Em⁷) (A)

wor - ship bring, kings shall ren - der trib - ute, na - tions serve our King.
 pres - sion's might, for their lives are pre - cious in his ho - ly sight.
 shall be blest, and all na - tions hail him King of kings con - fessed.
 glo - rious name, his e - ter - nal glo - ry through the earth pro - claim.

REFRAIN
 (D) (A) (D)

Christ shall have do - min - ion o - ver land and sea,

(D) (A⁷) (D) (G) (Em⁷) (A⁷) (D) 7

earth's re - mot - est re - gions shall his em - pire be.

Confession of Sin I Corinthians 7:29–32

This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.

Confession Hymn God Be Merciful to Me (Psalm 51) verses 1-4

God, be merciful to me;
On Thy grace I rest my plea
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within;
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess;
Grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace,
And provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgement just;
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin;
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice,
And in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face,
Blot them out in boundless grace.

Absolution Psalm 40:6-8, 3

Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

Thanksgiving Hymn God Be Merciful to Me (Psalm 51) verses 5-6

Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee,
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me,
And return, O God, to Thee
Savior all my guilt remove,
And my tongue shall sing Thy love
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,
And my mouth shall praise accord

Gospel Lesson Matthew 28:16-20

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Response Trinity Song (Unison 1x, Parts 2x, Unison 1x)

(Women) Holy Father Son and Spirit
Holy Communion Three in One

(Men) Come with Your peace with Your invitation
Bind us together in holy love

— God + calls + cleanses + speaks + strengthens + sends —

New Testament Lesson Acts 6:8-7:2 and 7:51-8:1a

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 8” | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live
There in the ground His body lay

Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

— God + calls + cleanses + speaks + strengthens + sends —

Bringing Our Life to God

Profession | Collection | Prayers

Prayers of the People

Collection

Response Sinclair Alleluia

1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
2. He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, Al - le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

Ancient Communion Litany

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ is ascended

Christ will come again!

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Communion in Christ Jesus

All Christians are invited to join us to receive Christ's presence of bread and wine. During this time of social distancing we offer for our pastor to come and bless your partaking of elements you provide to preserve the corporate-presence of Christ pictured in the supper as best we can. If you've been part of our streaming service please text Curran (203-812-9928) to set up a time he can meet you (from a distance) to celebrate communion.

Communion Hymn Wood and Nails

O humble carpenter down on your hands and knees
Look on your handiwork and build a house
So you may dwell in Me
So you may dwell in Me

The work was done with nothing but wood and nails
In Your scar-borne hands
O show me how to work and praise
Trusting that I am Your instrument

O loving laborer with the sweat upon your face
O build a table that I too may join you
In the father's place
Oh in the Father's place

The kingdom's come and built upon
Wood and nails gripped with joyfulness
So send me out within Your ways
Knowing that the task is finished

The dead will rise and give You praise
Wood and nails will not hold them down
These wooden tombs we'll break them soon
And fashion them into flower beds

The curse is done the battle won
Swords bent down into plowshares
Your scar-borne hands we'll join with them
Serving at the table You've prepared

Prayer for those searching

Oh God, I am discovering that the more I have, the more I need to have, the more I am loved, the more I need to be loved, the more I achieve, the more I need to achieve. Nothing seems to satisfy me. Could it be, as someone once said, that “Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.” Dear God, if this is true, and if as the Bible teaches there is life and life eternal in Christ alone, please guide me to Him. Open me to the reality of the One who alone can satisfy my restless heart. Give me the courage to believe that which I cannot see but can understand, feel and touch through the Word, sacraments and church family. Lord I want to believe, help my unbelief! Amen.

— God + calls + cleanses + speaks + strengthens + sends —

Benediction Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Coronation Hymn Jehovah to My Lord Has Said

Announcements

1. Je - ho - vah to my Lord has said, "Sit Thou at My right hand
2. A will - ing peo - ple in Thy day Of pow'r shall come to Thee.
3. The Lord at Thy right hand shall smite Earth's rul - ers in His wrath.

Un - til I make Thy foes a stool Where - on Thy feet may stand."
Thy youth ar - rayed in ho - li - ness Like morn - ing dew shall be.
A - mong the na - tions He shall judge; The slain shall fill His path.

Je - ho - vah shall from Zi - on send The scep - ter of Thy pow'r.
Je - ho - vah swore, and from His oath He nev - er will de - part;
In man - y lands He'll o - ver - throw Their kings with ru - in dread;

In bat - tle with Thine en - e - mies Be Thou the con - quer - or,
"Of the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek A priest Thou ev - er art."
And, march - ing, He'll drink from the brook And so lift up His head.

REFLECTION

Two Commissions, One Reality:

Today we celebrate the two great commissions of God: one, usually called the “creation mandate” was given to Adam and Eve even before the fall, and called them to the work of creation cultivation. This commission continues for us in the reality that God calls us to our vocations *for His glory*. We are to serve him as good carpenters, teachers, artist, judges, lawyers, merchants, speech pathologists, interior decorators, moms and dads.

The second commission is to redeemed humanity to participate in God’s work of redemption. But, too often, the Church speaks and acts as if the “great” commission cancels out and replaces the first commission. It does not. Rather, it is superimposed over it. The vocational hierarchies we create (summarized well in *Growing Up Born Again*) that put “missionary,” “pastor” and “teacher” at the top and “used car salesman” at the bottom are a corruption of Biblical teaching. Some Christians are called to become cross-cultural missionaries; and some are called to sell cars, or stocks, or pipefittings. And all of these callings are part of God’s Mission and purpose. *A vocation has value not because it facilitates a saving purpose of God, but because it facilitates a purpose of God.* Changing someone’s brakes won’t save their soul; but it’s an honorable thing to be a mechanic (and changing them properly may save their life!), and God expects mechanics to do the job well—and to take pleasure in the doing, for His glory.

WE ARE A LOCAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Local

We are a church in and for our community. We want to celebrate its goodness, serve its specific needs, and work towards the flourishing of all its citizens. We worship in the voice of our community and seek to be a church that grows organically out of our neighborhoods. We are committed to working for the common good. We look to serve, not to be served. We look to give, not to take. We are eager to bless others because we have been blessed by God.

Presbyterian

Being Presbyterian means we are led by elders and connected with other churches. This provides accountability, oversight, and produces real pastoral care. We are part of the Reformed Tradition which teaches that God knows us intimately and enables us to know Him intimately. We believe that life in relationship with God is not only possible but vibrant. That God is the initiator of this relationship and the whole is based on grace and forgiveness offered to us in the being and action of Jesus Christ.

Church

We believe that church is not an event or a program but rather a family. A place where you no longer have to choose between being really known or really loved. Within the family of God we don't need to perform in order to be accepted. We no longer relate to each other based upon our past failures or future potential but rather we relate to each other as brothers and sisters who have been loved by God in Christ!

COMING UP

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

In the midst of pandemic, financial crisis and social isolation we need each other, and we need God. Please join us as we follow a short prayer and scripture liturgy, pray for each other, and have some “digital fellowship” while staying home and staying safe.

Follow the link a few minutes before 7 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/823911975>

Or just input the meeting ID in the app: 823 911 975

Rooted: Applying the Essentials of the Faith

We're partnering with Christ Pres. Fairfield to do an online training together aimed at anyone who would like to know more about what the Bible teaches, how to read the Bible faithfully, and what the general beliefs of the Presbyterian Church are. The course also serves as the introduction to any leadership role in the church: Sunday school teacher, ministry coordinator, community group leader, elder, etc. We're committed to making the course engaging and practical, digging into questions, and learning together.

Zoom Link for 8pm meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88538451252>

Meeting ID is: 885-3845-1252

Contact us

203.812.9928 or curran.bishop@cpcmilford.org; find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/CPCMilford](https://www.facebook.com/CPCMilford) or visit us online at [cpcmilford.org](https://www.cpcmilford.org)



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