



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

September 13, 2020  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating What Christ Has Made Us: Friends of God**

Friends of God, we who were slaves?  
Friends of God, we who were enemies?  
Friends of God, we who still sin?  
Friends of God, we who struggle to believe?  
Yes, friends of God, we who are in Christ!  
Praise God who has loved us.  
Praise God who has confided in us.  
Praise God who has forgiven us.  
Praise God who has made us his children.  
Praise God who has called us his friends.

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### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

### **Gathering Hymn**    Psalm 148

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

### **Call to Worship**    Isaiah 41:8-10, 13:

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen,  
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;  
**you whom I took from the ends of the earth,**  
**and called from its farthest corners, saying to you,**  
“You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off”;  
**fear not, for I am with you;**  
**be not dismayed, for I am your God;**  
**I will strengthen you, I will help you,**  
**I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**  
For I, the LORD your God,  
hold your right hand;  
it is I who say to you, “Fear not,  
I am the one who helps you.”  
**“Thanks be to God!”**

1. <sup>1</sup>From heav'n O praise the LORD; Ye heights, HIS glo- ry raise. <sup>2</sup>All  
LORD: . . . . .

2. <sup>5</sup>Yea, let them glo- rious make Je - ho - vah's match - less name; For  
3. <sup>7</sup>From earth O praise the LORD, Ye deeps and all be - low; <sup>8</sup>Wild  
4. <sup>11</sup>Let all the peo - ple praise, And kings of eve - ry land; Let  
5. Je - ho - vah's name be praised A - bove the earth and sky. <sup>14</sup>For

an - gels, praise ac - cord; Let all His host give praise. <sup>3</sup>Praise  
when the word He spake They in - to be - ing came. <sup>6</sup>And  
winds that do His word, Ye clouds, fire, hail, and snow; <sup>9</sup>Ye  
all their voic - es raise Who judge and give com - mand. <sup>12</sup>By  
He His saints has raised And set their power on high. Him

Him on that high, Sun, moon, and star, Sun,  
from moun - tains place, Where fixed they be, Where  
young and high, Ye ce - dars tall, Ye  
praise ac - cord, O Is - rael's race, O

moon, and star, <sup>4</sup>Ye heav'ns a - far, And cloud - y sky.  
fixed they be, By His de - cree They can - not pass.  
ce - dars tall, <sup>10</sup>Beasts great and small, And birds that fly.  
maid and youth, <sup>13</sup>His name in truth Should be ex - tolled.  
Is - rael's race, Near to His grace. Praise ye the LORD.

# Invocation

## Old Testament Lesson 2 Chronicles 20:2-12

### Praise Hymn Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a key signature change from G major to D major (two sharps) at the beginning. The second staff continues in D major. The third staff continues in D major. The fourth staff continues in D major. The lyrics are as follows:

D Bm G A D Bm G A D  
1. Je - sus, what a friend for sin - ners, Je - sus, lov - er of my soul.  
2. Je - sus what a strength in weak - ness, Let me hide my - self in Him.  
3. Je - sus, what a help in sor - row, While the bil - lows o'er me roll.

5 D Bm G A D Bm G A D  
Friends may fail me foes as - sail me, He my Sa - vior makes me whole,  
Temp - ted, tried, and some - times, fail - ing, He, my strength, my vic - t'ry wins.  
Ev - en when my heart is break - ing, He, my com - fort, helps my soul.

9 D Bm Em A D Bm Em A  
**Chorus:** Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sa - vior! Hal - le - lu - jah! What a friend!

13 D A D A D D/F# G D A D  
Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, He is with me to the end.

4. Jesus, what a guide and keeper!  
While the tempest still is high,  
Storms about me, night o'ertakes me,  
He my pilot, hears my cry.

5. Jesus, I do now receive Him,  
More than all in Him I find,  
He hath granted me forgiveness,  
I am His and He is mine

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

**Confession of Sin**                      from I Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; **but I am not.**

Love is not envious or boastful; **but I am.**

It is not arrogant or rude; **but O lord,**

**you know the self-centered bent of my own heart.**

Love does not insist on its own way; **but I often do.**

It is not irritable or resentful; **but I often am.**

It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth; **but, O Father, you know the secret joys of which I am now ashamed.**

Love bears all things; **but I am indignant too quickly.**

Love believes all things;

**but I am too suspicious of others.**

Love hopes all things, endures all things;

**but I want what I need from others, now.**

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

**But dear Father, it is so difficult for me to give up childish ways; for I am afraid. But I am still guilty.**

**Hear me and forgive me, faithful Savior,  
for you Name's sake, and that I may learn to love. Amen.**

Individual Confession

**Absolution**                      Psalms 25:6–7, 14

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

**Thanksgiving Hymn**                      Children of the Heavenly Father

1. Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther safe - ly  
 2. God his own doth tend and nour - ish, in his  
 3. Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the  
 4. Praise the Lord in joy - ful num - bers, your Pro -

in his bo - som gath - er; nest - ling bird nor star in  
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish; from all e - vil things he  
 Lord his chil - dren sev - er; un - to them his grace he  
 tec - tor nev - er slum - bers; at the will of your De -

heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
 show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
 fend - er ev - 'ry foe - man must sur - ren - der.

5. Though he giveth or he taketh,  
 God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
 his the loving purpose solely  
 to preserve them pure and holy.

6. More secure is no one ever  
 than the loved ones of the Savior;  
 not yon star on high abiding  
 nor the bird in home-nest hiding.

## **Gospel Lesson**

John 15:8–17

## **Peace of Christ**

The peace of the Lord be with you!  
**And also with you!**

## **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise Him all creatures here below!  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host!  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!

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

## **New Testament Lesson** Acts 15:6-33

This is the Word of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

Christ Pres Culture, 3/Acts of the Ascended Christ, 17:  
Christ as Priest; Being & Sacrament | 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

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## **Bringing Our Life to God**

Prayers | Collection | Profession

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Collection**

text **MNA 1708** to **76959** and follow the prompts  
or visit [give.pcamna.org/to/1708/](https://give.pcamna.org/to/1708/)

### **Confession of Faith**

Christians, what do you believe?

Westminster Confession (1647) Chapter XXVII.

**I. Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace, immediately instituted by God, to represent Christ and His benefits; and to confirm our interest in Him; as also, to put a visible difference between those that belong**

**to the Church, and the rest of the world; and solemnly to engage them to the service of God in Christ, according to His Word.**

**II. There is in every sacrament a spiritual relation, or sacramental union, between the sign and the thing signified: where it comes to pass, that the names and effects of the one are attributed to the other.**

**III. The grace which is exhibited in or by the sacraments rightly used, is not conferred by any power in them; neither does the efficacy of a sacrament depend upon the piety or intention of him that administers it: but upon the work of the Spirit, and the word of institution, which contains... a promise of benefit to worthy receivers.**

### **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.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread, Forgive our debts as we forgive  
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from all evil  
For Thine is the kingdom, Thine is the power  
Thine is the glory, Forever and ever  
Amen amen

### **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.

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## **Coronation Hymn**

Is He Worthy?

Do you feel the world is broken? - **We do**

Do you feel the shadows deepen? - **We do**

But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through?

**We do**

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? - **We do**

**Is all creation groaning?** - It is

**Is a new creation coming?** - It is

**Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst?**- It is

**Is it good that we remind ourselves of this?** - It is

*Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole*

*Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll*

*The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave*

*He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave*

*Is He worthy, Is He worthy*

*Of all blessing and honor and glory*

*Is He worthy of this?* - He is

Does the Father truly love us? - **He does**

Does the Spirit move among us? - **He does**

And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? - **He does**

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? - **He does**

*Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole*

*Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll*

*The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave*

*He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave*

*From ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue*

*He has made us a kingdom and priests*

*To God to reign with the Son*

*Is He worthy, Is He worthy*

*Of all blessing and honor and glory*

*Is He worthy, Is He worthy*

*Is He worthy of this?* – He is

## **Benediction**      I Timothy 6:11-16

As for you, O people of God, ... Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession... I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus... to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ...—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** – meeting tonight, September 13, 5:30-7pm at the Bishops (21 Green St., Milford, 06460). We'll do an inductive Bible study of the sermon passage; please BYO dinner to eat while we study.

### **Thursday Night Prayer Meeting** – 7-7:50pm

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.

[Zoom link](#)      Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681      Passcode: 665297

### **Exploring Church Membership** – Thursdays, 8-9pm, 9/17, 10/1, 8, 15 & 22

We take five vows in joining a Presbyterian church—this class explores those vows, as well as some distinctives we strive to embody as a church.

### **Worship Location Schedule**

– September 20, 27: [I Shipyard Ln., Milford, CT 06460 \(Fowler Pavilion\)](#)

### **Contact us**

203.812.9928 or curran.bishop@cpcmilford.org; find us on Facebook at facebook.com/CPCMilford or visit us online at cpcmilford.org

## REFLECTION

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### **Friendship with God**

It was an extraordinary honor which the Lord bestowed on Abraham, when he called him his friend. To be called “the servant of God” is high and honorable; for if it be reckoned a distinguished favor to be admitted into the family of a king or a prince, how much more highly should we esteem it, when God accounts us as his servants and members of his family? But, not satisfied with that, he bestows on him even a higher honor, and adorns him with the name of “friend.” What is here said about Abraham relates to all believers...Having therefore obtained from God so great an honor, we ought to remember our duty, that the more abundantly he has testified his kindness towards us, we may the more earnestly and with deeper reverence worship him continually.

– John Calvin (1509-1564)



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