



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

October 11, 2020  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating The Three Offices of Christ: Jesus Our Prophet**

Thanks be to Him who speaks to us,  
Who does not leave us to pool our ignorance  
Nor guess at the meaning of the world.

Blessed be the Name of him  
who announces from outside history,  
that which is true, for the sake of love.

Praise to our Lord Jesus Christ,  
sent by the Father to fulfill a promise,  
to be The Prophet that was to come.

He speaks with authority,  
revealing mysteries of the high God;  
revealing to us who we are;  
revealing a world renewed and humankind reunited  
by the power of his cross.

O Christ, our living Prophet, Priest, and King!  
Glorious names we call you,  
glorious honor we give you!  
Alleluia!

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### TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

**Gathering Hymn**    Come, Thou Almighty King

F F Gm F C F C F C7 F C 7

1. Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing,  
 2. Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword,  
 3. Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear  
 4. To the great One in Three e - ter - nal prais - es be,

F C C F C7 F C F C7

help us to praise. Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -  
 our prayer at - tend. Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy  
 in this glad hour. Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in  
 hence ev - er - more. His sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in

F F Gm F C7 F 7

to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
 Word suc - cess; Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.  
 ev - ery heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

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

**Call to Worship**    Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

**I am the first and I am the last;**

**besides me there is no god.**

Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

**Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people.**

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

**Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses!**

Is there a God besides me?

**There is no Rock; I know not any.**

Invocation

**Old Testament Promise**    Deuteronomy 18:14-22

**Praise Hymn**            Knowing You

All I once held dear built my life upon  
All this world reveres and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now compared to this

**Chorus**

Knowing You Jesus knowing You  
There is no greater thing  
You're my God You're my King  
You're the reason that I sing  
And I love You Lord love You Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know You more  
To be found in You and known as Yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All surpassing gift of righteousness

## Chorus

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like You in Your death my Lord  
So with You to live and never die

## Chorus

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

### Confession of Sin                      Isaiah 30:9-13, 15

They are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; who say to the seers, “**Do not see,**” and to the prophets, “**Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.**” Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, “*Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling.*”

### Individual Confession

#### Absolution                                      Matthew 11:25-26, 28-30

At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

#### Thanksgiving Hymn                      Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain  
Holy holy is He  
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on  
Heaven's mercy seat

### **Chorus:**

Holy holy holy  
Is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
With all creation I sing  
Praise to the King of kings  
You are my everything  
And I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of living color  
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder  
Blessing and honor strength and glory  
And power be to You the only wise King

### **Chorus**

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder  
At the mention of Your name  
Jesus Your name is power breath and living water  
Such a marvelous mystery

### **Chorus**

**New Testament Fulfillment**      Acts 3:19-26

### **Peace of Christ**

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

### **Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;  
World, without end; Amen, Amen.

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

**New Testament Lesson**      Acts 15:36-16:10

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**     The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 18 | Curran Bishop

**Response Hymn**     Behold the Lamb

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away  
Slain for us; and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross  
So we share, in this Bread of Life  
And we drink, of His sacrifice  
As a sign, of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King

The body of our Savior Jesus Christ  
Torn for you; eat and remember  
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life  
Paid the price to make us one  
So we share, in this Bread of Life  
And we drink, of His sacrifice  
As a sign, of our bonds of love  
Around the table of the King

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin  
Shed for you; drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in  
To receive the life of God  
So we share, in this Bread of Life  
And we drink, of His sacrifice  
As a sign, of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise  
To respond; and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
As His body here on earth  
As we share, in His suffering  
We proclaim, Christ will come again  
And we'll join, in the feast of heaven  
Around the table of the King

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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/](http://give.pcamna.org/to/1708/)

#### Confession of Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith, I.1 (1647)

Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men unexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and of His will, which is necessary unto salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal Himself, and to declare that His will unto His Church; and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the Church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing: which maketh the Holy Scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now ceased.

#### 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 (Lascoe)**

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**

## **Be Thou My Vision**

## **Benediction**

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ!  
Amen.

1 Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word,  
 3 High King of hea - ven, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
 I e - ver with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - e - ver be - fall,

wa - king or sleep - ing, thy pre - sence my light.  
 high King of hea - ven, my Trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## REFLECTION

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### Three Things at Once

We understand the concept of “office:” we have just elected leaders to office. The word comes from the Latin *officium*, meaning duty or service.

The idea that Christ’s work of redemption on our behalf can be understood as his filling the three Old Testament offices of prophet, priest, and king, goes back to the 4th century A.D.... At the time of the Reformation, was picked up by John Calvin. Ever since then, it has been an important element in the way Reformed Christians understand what Christ came into the world to do.

The New Testament teaches that the Old Testament points to Christ.... Want to know why Jesus came teaching and preaching? Then Study what an OT prophet does. Want to know why Jesus came to die? Study what a priest does. Want to know why Jesus came proclaiming that in his arrival the Kingdom of God had broken in on the world? Study what an OT king does. Each office shows an aspect of what Christ, the eternal Son, came to do for us: a prophet speaks the infallible truth of God in a world of counterfeits, lies, half-truths and ignorance.

We need a faithful prophet, because without an authoritative word from Above we are left with mere opinions about what life means. We need a sympathetic priest because without one, our real moral guilt exposes us to the law of the universe: divine retribution. And we need a good king because without the might and power of someone looking after us, our enemies—Sin, Death, and the Devil—would ruin us. But thanks be to God—Christ is all three of these to us: Prophet, Priest, and King!

Today, ponder the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and give thanks that God has not been a silent onlooker to the plight of the world, lost in its confusions:

*Q. 24 How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?*

*A. Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.*

– Ron Lutjens

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** – meeting tonight, October 11, 5:30-7pm at the Bishops' (21 Green St., Milford, CT 06460). We'll do an inductive Bible study of the sermon passage; please BYO chair and dinner to eat while we study.

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

In the midst of pandemic, political chaos and social distancing 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.

[Zoom link](#) Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 Passcode: 665297 (same as prayer meeting)

**Worship Location Schedule**

October Sundays: Fowler Memorial Building, [45 New Haven Ave, Milford, CT 06460](#)

**Contact us**

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

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