



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

November 8, 2020
24th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Christ our Captain in Spiritual Warfare

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ
Who has defeated our Ancient Foe,
And now trains our hands for war.

Our arms can bend a bronze bow,
And he gladly gives us daily a shield for victory,
That we may endure every attack.

The Lord's right hand sustains us,
He stoops down to make us great!
The Lord arms me with strength for battle;
God will crush my Enemy, Satan of old, under my feet.

The Lord lives, Praise be to my Rock!
Let God my Savior be exalted.

.....

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST: ALL SAINTS DAY

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn The Battle Belongs to the Lord

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land
The battle belongs to the Lord
No weapon that's fashioned against us will stand
The battle belongs to the Lord

Chorus

And we sing glory honor
Power and strength to the Lord
We sing glory honor
Power and strength to the Lord

When the power of darkness comes in like a flood
The battle belongs to the Lord
He's raised up a standard the pow'r of His blood
The battle belongs to the Lord

Chorus

When your enemy presses in hard do not fear
The battle belongs to the Lord
Take courage my friend your redemption is near
The battle belongs to the Lord

Chorus

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

Call to Worship

Psalm 24:7–10

Lift up your heads, O gates!

**And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

**The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

Lift up your heads, O gates!

**And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Invocation

Praise Hymn

The Son of God Goes Forth to War

1. The Son of God goes forth to war, A king - ly crown to gain;
 2. The mar - tyr first, whose ea - gle eye Could pierce be - yond the grave;
 3. A glo - rious band, the cho - sen few On whom the Spir - it came,
 4. A no - ble ar - my, men and boys, The ma - tron and the maid,

His blood - red ban - ner streams a - far! Who fol - lows in His train?
 Who saw his Mas - ter in the sky, And called on Him to save.
 Twelve val - iant saints, their hope they knew, And mocked the cross and flame.
 A - round the Sav - ior's throne re - joice In robes of light ar - rayed.

Who best can drink His cup of woe, Tri - um - phant o - ver pain,
 Like Him, with par - don on His tongue, In midst of mor - tal pain,
 They met the ty - rant's bran - dished steel, The li - on's gor - y mane;
 They climbed the steep as - cent of heav'n, Through per - il, toil and pain;

Who pa - tient bears his cross be - low, He fol - lows in His train.
 He prayed for them that did the wrong! Who fol - lows in His train?
 They bowed their necks the death to feel: Who fol - lows in their train?
 O God, to us may grace be giv'n To fol - low in their train.

Confession of Sin

O Spirit, I have grieved you.
I have not had the courage to live by faith,
To trust that Christ has become my righteousness.
I have tried to be my own righteousness;
And for fear of failing, I have been afraid to live.
I am anxiety ridden about my weakness.
I am bent on avoiding sin – not out of love for Christ,
but because I do not like to be wrong.
And afraid of hoping for too little of your power,
I have demanded too much for this life.
I am easily intimidated by the spiritual victories of others,
 too often running from teacher to teacher
 searching for secrets of spiritual success.
I have not set my sights on the life to come.
I live too much with the present struggles and temptations
 and not in the joy of the Lord,
Who has paid all that I owe You.
I do not live enough for the Day,
when what is mortal in me shall be swallowed up by Life.
Oh spirit of Christ, have mercy on me. Amen.

Individual Confession

Absolution / Old Testament Lesson Zechariah 3:1–10

Thanksgiving Hymn Isaiah 43

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you,
And the waves will not
Overcome you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name,
You are Mine.

Chorus

For I am the Lord your God (I am the Lord your God),
I am the Lord your God (I am)
The Holy One of Israel
Your Savior
(Repeat)

I am the Lord (do not fear)
(Repeat 3x)

When you walk through the fire
You'll not be burned,
And the flames will not
Consume you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name,
You are Mine.

Chorus

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 6:10–18

Peace of Christ

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

Trinity Song

Holy Father Son and Spirit
Holy Communion Three in One
Come with Your peace with Your invitation
Bind us together in holy love
Holy Father Son and Spirit
Holy Communion Three in One

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

New Testament Lesson

Acts 17:16-34

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 21 | Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

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

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/

Confession of Faith Ephesians 6:10–20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. **Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.** To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc -
 2. To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; the pris - 'ner
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

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ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from shore to
 thron - to crown his head; his name, like sweet per - fume, shall
 • love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es shall pro -
 leaps to lose his chains, the wea - ry find e - ter - nal
 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with songs a -

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shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 • claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 rest, and all the sons of want are blest.
 gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

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.

Alleluia Sinclair Alleluia

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 —

Coronation Hymn

Christ is Risen He is Risen Indeed!

How can it be the One who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death
Sing sing hallelujah

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes
Alive He stands their Friend and King
Christ Christ He is risen

Chorus

Christ is risen He is risen indeed
Oh sing hallelujah
Join the chorus sing with the redeemed
Christ is risen He is risen indeed
Where doubt and darkness once had been
They saw Him and their hearts believed
But blessed are those who have not seen
Yet sing hallelujah

Once bound by fear now bold in faith
They preached the truth and power of grace
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life life everlasting

Chorus

The power that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save
He frees our hearts to live His grace
Go tell of His goodness

Chorus

Benediction Adapted from Ephesians 3:16 & 19

Now may the Lord bless you according to the riches of his glory and grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God in Christ. Amen.

REFLECTION

The Unseen Battle

If we view history as a tapestry, Job's life would be one of the key threads in bringing out the true perspective of the rest. Job did not realize what an important thing he was doing as he sat in the ashes covered with boils....Job was a pioneer in a certain area of the battles between God and Satan, as far as we know from the Bible....

In the first chapter of Job, the curtain is pulled back for us, to reveal what was going on in the heavenlies. We are told that Satan appeared before God. This enemy—the adversary—stood there as a challenge before God, saying that he had been going to and fro in the earth. (In I Peter 5:8, we are warned that this is the devil's constant occupation...) God spoke to Satan and asked whether he had noticed Job and that there was nobody else like him who feared God and hated evil....Here was someone who evidently brought joy to the Lord, a man...dear to Him....Job's life and the inner reality of his love and worship obviously mattered to God. This is an exciting portion of the glimpse we are given of this conversation. Job was a person to the infinite, personal Living God, and he meant enough to God to be made a part of His challenge to Satan. The fact that there existed a man who really put God first in his life was a victory for God in the continual challenge by Satan.... What an exciting revelation this is to us! We matter, as individuals, to the Living God. However—here is a sober warning—we also matter to Satan!

The deluge of calamity that fell upon Job was pretty complete.... Within minutes, everything which Job had to bring him rejoicing in his day-by-day work and life had been wiped out....

[But] Job's reaction was a terrific victory for God in this battle in the heavenlies.... Job truly loved and trusted God and bowed before Him in worship as his first reaction to the wave of shocks. He humbled himself in the most lowly things he could physically do—by shaving his head, tearing his clothing, and falling on his face before God.... Job didn't quote anyone else. He couldn't look up an appropriate verse. Job... communicated to God his honest thoughts and reactions to all the terrible things that had happened. He said, Naked came I from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return: the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord (Job 1:21). Job... didn't know what we know as we read the account, because the curtain had not been pulled back for him... but he trusted God without seeing.

—Edith Schaeffer, *Affliction* (1978)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group will meet tonight, November 8, 5:30-7pm at the Alburgers (97 Oxford Rd., Milford, CT 06460). We'll be outside as the temps should be in the 60°s and dry! We'll do an inductive Bible study of the sermon passage and hang out. Feel free to bring a picnic dinner to eat while we study. Please BYO chair.

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.”

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

Exploring Church Membership – Thursday, 8-9pm: we'll resume this week for our last session, exploring the fifth membership vow. (Zoom info same as prayer meeting:)

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

Worship Location Schedule

We will be meeting at the Milford Arts Council (40 Railroad Ave S., Milford, CT 06460), at 10:30am (children's lessons starting at 10am).

Contact us

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

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