

# CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MILFORD

December 6, 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### REFLECTION

# Celebrating the Three Comings of Christ: The Third Coming: In Judgement as Conqueror

Child, when Herod wakes, and hate or exploitation swing their dripping swords, from your cross and cradle sing a new song.

Child, when Caesar's laws choke love or strangle freedom, calling darkness light, from your cross and cradle sing a new song.

Child, when Caiaphas sends truth to crucifixion to protect his prayers, from your cross and cradle sing a new song.

Child, your helpless love brings death and resurrection; joyfully we come to your cross and cradle with a new song—Alleluia! Alleluia!

—Brian Wren (1936-)

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



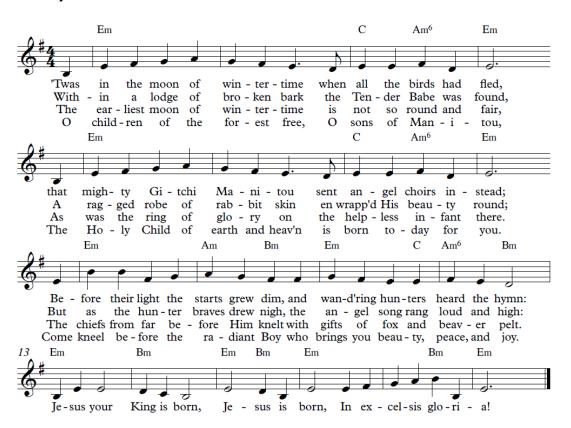
## Call to Worship Isaiah 16:5:

In love a throne will be established; in faithfulness a man will sit on it—
one from the house of David—
one who in judging seeks justice
and speeds the cause of righteousness!

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson | Isaiah | 1:1-10

Praise Hymn Huron Carol



## **Confession of Sin** based on Amos 2 and Proverbs 31

O Lord, we confess that we have sold the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—

That we trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted;

We pervert the sexuality which you have given us as a gift, so that Your holy name is profaned;

We lay ourselves down beside every idol:

money, sex, power, security, possessions;

We build our sense of security on the backs of the poor,
And we pervert your Church with our self-centeredness.

We become drunk with our self-importance and forget what has been decreed;

And pervert the rights of the afflicted.

We do not open our mouth for the mute,

for the rights of all who are destitute, or defend the rights of the poor and needy.

O Lord, we confess that we are all poor and needy.

But in our material wealth we have become proud, and look down on those who would teach us humility, and dependence on You.

Forgive us, O Lord, we cry! Amen.

Individual Confession

## **Absolution** 2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Thanksgiving Hymn My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout





#### New Testament Lesson Matthew 2:1-15

#### **Peace of Christ**

The peace of the Lord be with you!

# And also with you!

#### **Sanctus**



**Sermon Text** 

Isaiah 9:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

**Sermon** 

The Book of Emmanuel, 2 | Curran Bishop

**Response Hymn** Hark! The herald angels sing



— 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** Westminster Confession of Faith (1647) 8.2, 33.1

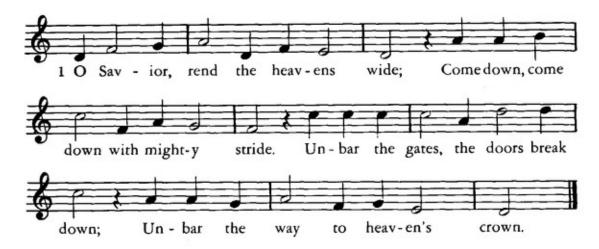
The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin: being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.

God hath appointed a day wherein he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons, that have lived upon earth, shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

# **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.

#### O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide



# Prayer for those searching

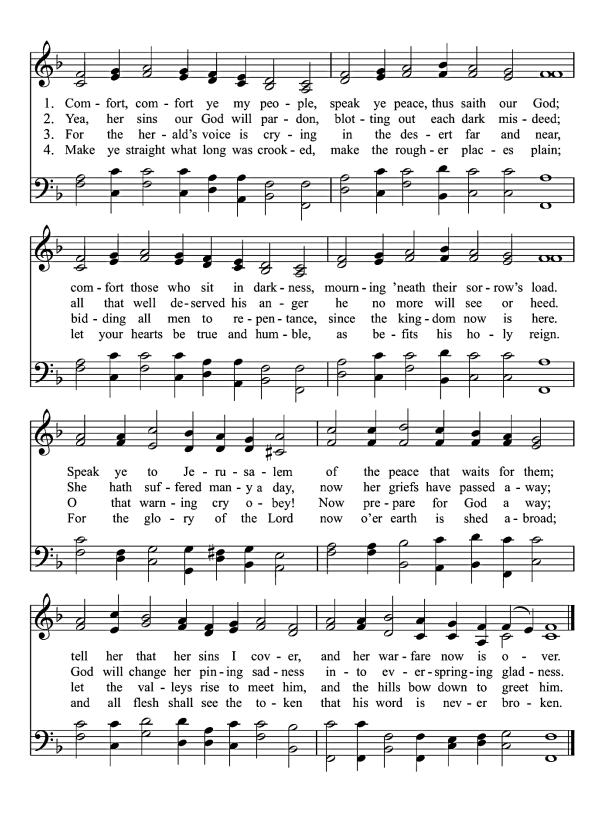
Oh God, I am discovering that the more I have, the more I need to have, the more I am loved, the more I need to be loved, the more I achieve, the more I need to achieve. Nothing seems to satisfy me. Could it be, as someone once said, that "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." 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.

# **Coronation Hymn**

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

## **Benediction** from Revelation 1 & 22

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come. Amen.



#### **REFLECTION**

## **Power or Justice**

Herod is the most elaborate character in this little play and it is important that we should get the right idea about him. We must forget the traditional picture of a semilunatic monster, "out-heroding Herod" and "raging on the pageant and in the street." This man was not called "Herod the Great" for nothing. He is 70 years old, and already dying of an agonizing disease, but he is the wreck of a very great man. Everything he says about himself is true. He did keep Judaea at peace for thirty years after it had been torn to pieces by religious factions, and he did leave it prosperous; he was betrayed by every one he loved, and his nephews did try to poison him. He was a brilliant soldier and politician, and, as far as the country was concerned, no more cruel and unenlightened than other Eastern princes of his time. But his private life was one long horror of jealousy, suspicion, and bloodshed. He never got over the death of his wife, Marianne, whom he had loved passionately, and had executed in frenzy of personal jealousy (unfounded) and of political suspicion (perfectly well founded). Nor could he ever get over the knowledge that the strict lews despised him for being an Edomite (a descendant of Esau) and not a true Israelite of the House of Jacob. He sat lightly to the Jewish religion, allowing pagan temples in his outlying provinces; though he built the great Temple of Jerusalem and enriched it magnificently. The Roman Eagle which he put up there infuriated the Pharisees, because it suggested that the Jewish religion was subordinate to the Roman State. Stories are told of Herod's personal courage and of his sense of humor. He was crafty, false, and suspicious, and had a vile temper; but he was a genius in his way. Caesar Augustus knew that Herod was the one man who could be trusted to keep Judaea in order; and Herod knew that if order was not kept, Judaea would be deprived of her last vestiges of independence. On the death of Herod this did in fact happen, and Judaea was put under the direct control of a Roman governor. Herod was, in fact, very much in the position of an Indian Maharajah, exercising sovereignty within the British Raj—(like many of them, he introduced a good deal of European culture into his province, and sent his grandsons to college in Rome, as they send theirs to Oxford). Thus his being "troubled" by the threat of a Jewish Messiah, and steps he took to suppress the menace were, from the political point of view, perfectly well justified.

—Dorothy Sayers

# NOTES:

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Community Group** will meet tonight, December 5, 4-5:30pm at the Fowler Building (45 New Haven Ave, Milford, CT 06460; parking at 1 Shipyard Ln., Milford, CT 06460-across the parking lot from the pavilion). We'll do an inductive Bible study and enjoy time together.

# 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

Caroling at The Hill Christmas Store – Saturday, December 12; 2 time slots: 10:00-12:00 outside of Pastor Chip's house; 1:00-3:00 outside of Maxine's house. Contact Cameron (cameron.costen@gmail.com) for more info.

'Twas the Night with Christ Pres Fairfield: Sunday, December 13, 8pm. Email with Zoom link to follow.

**Christmas Eve Service** Thursday, December 24, 6-7pm at the MAC (40 Railroad Ave, Milford, CT). Zoom link Meeting ID: 844 3944 3883 Passcode: 995837

#### 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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