



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

December 6, 2020
2nd 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

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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

Em C D Em

1 My _____ soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who

C D Em G

heart is great, and my spir - it _____ sings of the won - drous
 things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the
 left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice
 holds us fast: God's _____ mer - cy _____ must de - liv - er _____

D Em C Em G

things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your
 past to the end of the age to be. Your ver - y
 tears ev - ery ty - rant _____ from his throne. The hun - gry
 us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing

D Em

sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you
 name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would
 poor shall _____ weep no more for the food they can
 word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which

C D Em

did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - ery
 holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

New Testament Lesson Matthew 2:1-15

Peace of Christ

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

Sanctus



with vigor
fff Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts! Hea-ven and earth are
full of Your glo-ry! Ho - san-na in the High - est! Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

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

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

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

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



I O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; Come down, come
down with might - y stride. Un - bar the gates, the doors break
down; Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.

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

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.

1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
 3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
 all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
 bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way;
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 God will change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

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 semi-lunatic 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 Jews 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 I 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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