



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

April 11, 2021
2nd Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

Celebrating the Immortal Jesus as the Resurrection Community of Joy and Worship

Praise the Lord!
Easter morning was the first day of a new creation!
Christ is risen, Death has been conquered!
All who have bowed before Jesus,
Who trust that in his death their guilt died,
Are gathered into communities of praise,
The church of the living God!
Whoever has tasted truly
Of the powers of the age to come,
Sings from the heart:
Refrains of relief, carols of gladness!
The Pleasure of all that is to come
Tunes our tongue, and our inward joys arise
And turn into a song. Praise the Lord!

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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

1. Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
 2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ hath burst his pris - on,
 3. Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4. Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;
 with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold thee as a mor - tal:

loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day a - midst thine own thou didst stand, be - stow - ing

led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
 thine own peace, which ev - er - more pass - eth hu - man know - ing.

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

Call to Worship from Psalm 16:7-11

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

**Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.**

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.

**You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Psalms 22:23–31

Praise Hymn O Day of Rest and Gladness

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, Most beautiful, most bright:
On Thee, the high and lowly, Through ages joined in tune,
Sing holy, holy, holy, To the great God Triune.

On Thee, at the creation, The light first had its birth;
On Thee, for our salvation, Christ rose from depths of earth;
On Thee, our Lord, victorious, The Spirit sent from heaven,
And thus on Thee, most glorious, A triple light was given.

Thou art a port protected From storms that round us rise;
A garden intersected With streams of paradise;
Thou art a cooling fountain In life's dry dreary sand;
From Thee, like Pisgah's mountain, We view our promised land.

Today on weary nations The heavenly manna falls;
To holy convocations The silver trumpet calls,
Where gospel light is glowing With pure and radiant beams,
And living water flowing, With soul-refreshing streams.

New graces ever gaining From this, our day of rest,
We reach the rest remaining To spirits of the blessed.
To Holy Ghost be praises, To Father, and to Son;
The church her voice upraises To Thee, blessed Three in One.

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Confession of Sin Romans 12:1–2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Individual Confession

Absolution Psalms 103:9–13

He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Thanksgiving Hymn Christ is Risen

Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame
But fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us
Freely You've bled for us

Chorus

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave
Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bowed to none but heaven's will
No scheme of hell no scoffer's crown
No burden great can hold You down
In strength You reign
Forever let Your church proclaim

Chorus

Bridge

O death where is your sting
O hell where is your victory
O church come stand in the light
The glory of God has defeated the night
Singing O death where is your sting
O hell where is your victory
O church come stand in the light
Our God is not dead He's alive He's alive

Chorus

Gospel Lesson

John 20:19–28

Peace of Christ

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

9. To all my broth - ers I'll de - clare The glo - ry
 10. For He has not de - spised the poor; He has not
 11. With - in the con - gre - ga - tion great I of - fer
 12. All ends of earth, re - mem - b'ring Him, Shall turn them -
 13. The rich and might - y of the earth Shall eat and
 14. A seed shall rise to serve His will, And to the

of Your ho - ly name. I'll praise You where the peo - ple meet.
 scorned their wretch - ed state. He has not turned a - way His face
 praise You have sup - plied. I'll pay my vows with them who fear;
 selves un - to the LORD. The kin - dreds of the na - tions then
 low be - fore Him bend, And in His pres - ence all shall bow
 age it shall be told A - bout our Lord; then they shall come

Who fear the LORD, His praise pro - claim; All sons of
 From an - y - one in trou - ble great. When an - y
 The meek with food are sat - is - fied. Who seek the
 To Him their hom - age shall ac - cord. Be - cause the
 Who help - less to the dust de - scend, The wretch - ed
 And shall His right - eous - ness un - fold Un - to a

Ja - cob, praise His grace, And stand in awe, all Is - rael's race.
 cried to Him in grief, He heard his prayer and sent re - lief.
 LORD shall Him a - dore. May your heart live for - ev - er - more.
 LORD the king - dom owns And rules a - bove all earth - ly thrones.
 who, al - though they strive, Yet can - not keep their souls a - live.
 peo - ple yet un - known, That this was done by Him a - lone.

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.

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Sermon Text Proverbs I

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Healthy: A Study in Proverbs - Proverbs I: Becoming Skilled | Curran Bishop

Response Hymn

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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/

Confession of Faith The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.
Amen.

*that is, the universal church

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 Gospel Song

Holy God in love became, Perfect Man to bear my blame
On the cross He took my sin, By His death I live again

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

Our Hearts Still Burned

Faded hope and grim despair, on the day of the murdered king
Foolish minds and unbelief, could not grasp what the prophets sing
Did not Jesus have to suffer, enter glory through agony?
Then the king unpacked his Word: Their hearts leapt, and their eyes could see

Everything the Scriptures say, in the Prophets, the Law, the Psalms
Touching Jesus, called the Christ, is fulfilled in this gospel song
The Messiah had to suffer, had to rise on the first Lord's Day
We proclaim to every land, true forgiveness in Jesus' name

We were deaf, but now we hear, Scripture's voice both in type and word
Unbelief that has us chained, has become in our eyes absurd
Did our hearts not burn within us, as he spoke with us on the way
And our hearts still burn with fire, as his Word speaks to us today

Did our hearts not burn within us, as he spoke with us on the way
And our hearts still burn with fire, as his Word speaks to us today

Benediction Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

REFLECTION

Resurrection and Sadness

As Williams James pointed out, if we are indeed part and parcel of a meaningless universe, the kind in which Jesus could be murdered on a cross with no resurrection, then being depressed only makes good sense. Under these conditions the sensitive and sensible person will be depressed. I have discovered only one event in history that redeemed all this evil for me and gave me hope: the resurrection of Jesus. Allowing the resurrected One to be constantly present, I can deal with all the evil suffered by Jesus, by my friends, and by me. I can face all the rape, pillage, war and hatred that I hear about daily, and still have hope. The resurrection reveals the ultimate nature of the universe, and the risen Christ continues to give victory over the power of evil.

There is still another kind of depression that does not seem to be triggered by any known outer pain or crisis. Sometimes it is as if the darkness seizes me and I have no power of my own to tear myself away from it. Sometimes I feel as though I have fallen into the pit of hell and demons of hell are using their most exquisite tortures to force me to give myself up to them. Many of us seem to live on the edge of the abyss and the cliffs are constantly crumbling away even when our outer life tells us that we should feel fine. I have discovered that those souls which, like mine, have been worn thin by misery and lack of love as children are open to the direct intrusion of that destructive, down pulling, befouling spirit which has caused so much misery in our broken and suffering world.

These inner experiences of evil can often trigger the physical symptoms of depression as completely as brain disease, hormonal imbalance or outer tragedy. I believe that this destructive reality is one factor in most kinds of depression. The good news is that we are given a particular way to be released from this kind of inner agony. When I engage my depression rather than trying to run away from it, allow it to be expressed in imaginative pictures or images, and then ask the risen Christ to enter and free me from my inner tormentors, usually I am soon free of the depression. The gruesome darkness retreats and I am accepted and loved by the Christ. Many friends who are attacked in the same way have been lifted out of the pit by this method and enabled to go about the business of life again.

—Morton Kelsey (1985)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – Meets tonight, April 11, 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) for an inductive Bible study and community building time. [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 849 7690 9029 | Passcode: 903886

Women's Bible Study – Every-other-Tues. 7:30-9 pm, in person and on zoom (this week, April 13). Please RSVP to cpcmilford@gmail.com. [Link](#) to the study guide (\$2.50). [Zoom Link](#) | Meeting ID: 828 6871 9345 | Passcode: 246223

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

Helping Without Hurting – Every-other-Thursday, (next week, April 22), 8-9 pm
We'll look at how the nature and character of God shapes the mercy ministry of His Church using the book *When Helping Hurts*.
[Zoom link](#) (same as prayer meeting) | Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 | Passcode: 665297

Contact us

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

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