



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

April 25, 2021
4th Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

Celebrating the Immortal Jesus as the Resurrection Community of Prayer and Faith

Having been raised with Christ,
Children of the resurrection
See the glory of his Kingdom
And set their hearts on things above
Where Christ is seated at God's right hand:

In all their play, in all their work;
In all that's hard, in all that's full of pleasure,
They pray through the Son to their Father:
"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!"

Blessed be our Lord Christ,
Who in his death justified us before God,
And in his immortal life intercedes for us Above.

It's our high privilege to carry everything to him
in prayer— To him whom the angels adore,
The demons fear, and the planets obey.

Bless the Lord this Resurrection Day, with all his saints.
Alleluia!

.....

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + **Easter** + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn The Day of Resurrection

r 7

1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
 2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
 3. Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
 let the round world keep tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from this world to the sky,
 and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 in - vis - i - ble and vis - i - ble, their notes let all things blend,

r 7

our Christ hath brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord hath ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

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

Call to Worship Psalm 39:12, 40:1-3

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;

hold not your peace at my tears!

For I am a sojourner with you,

a guest, like all my fathers.

I waited patiently for the LORD;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the pit of destruction,

out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock,

making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth,

a song of praise to our God

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord

Invocation

New Testament Lesson Acts 12:1-17

Praise Hymn You Are My All In All

You are my strength

When I am weak

You are the treasure

That I seek

You are my all in all

Seeking You as a precious jewel

Lord to give up I'd be a fool

You are my all in all

Chorus

Jesus Lamb of God

Worthy is Your name

Jesus Lamb of God

Worthy is Your name

Taking my sin
My cross my shame
Rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all

Chorus

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Confession of Sin

O God our Father, we come humbly
to confess how feeble is our confidence
that you will fulfill your good purposes for us.

We are frail, and trouble snaps our faith like a twig.
Loss or sickness, or the thwarting of our plans,
is like a cry in our ear that we have no Father in heaven.
Forgive us we pray, for each time we have believed it.

O Lord may we remember;
may we remember that in your great power,
you exiled your Son for his protection,
and then called him out of Egypt for our salvation.
And as you ordered events then,
and rescued the infant Son of your love,
so the same hidden Providence has rescued us
again and again, in our own times of danger.

O Lord remind us,
that until your good purposes for us are fulfilled,
we are immortal on the earth; and that even when we die
our spirit shall be in your presence,
waiting with unspeakable joy
to follow Christ in his resurrection.

We renounce our unbelieving hearts and complaining spirits. Hear our confession and cancel our guilt, by the perfect life and sacrificial death of him who was tempted to doubt your goodness, but never gave in – Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Individual Confession

Absolution Isaiah 43:1-5

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.

Thanksgiving Hymn What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Old Testament Lesson Jonah 2:1-9

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

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Sermon Text A “String of Pearls” from Proverbs on Wisdom, Money & Poverty

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

1. What a Friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3. Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged: take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer!

O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.

Sermon Flourishing: A Study in Proverbs; Wisdom, Money & Poverty

Response Hymn Rock of Ages

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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 Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

Q. 27: What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. The almighty and ever present power of God
by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures,
and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years,
food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—
all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

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

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Chorus

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up

Chorus

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Chorus

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom

Benediction from 1 Tim. 6

As for you, O people of God, Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession; I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus; he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

REFLECTION

Resurrection and Prayer

The story is quite clear: in the garden at Gethsemane the Father said “No” to his Son’s prayer to be rescued from the horrific agony of the atoning cross. But three days later, in the cemetery garden where Jesus’ dead body had been buried, God raised his Son to a life-beyond-death existence, thereby revealing that his “No” to the Son’s prayer for help was really a “Yes—but not that way.” And so, the great messianic Psalm 22 proclaims triumphantly concerning the Father’s response to his Son’s prayer: “*For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.*” (Psalm 22:24) The resurrection of Jesus, therefore, becomes the Great Guarantee that God hears our prayers and will not, finally, hand us over to anything that would ruin us. God rescued his Son not around the cross but through it.

I’ve always regarded myself as among the “O ye of midget-faith” when it comes to prayer, but I’m finding that the older I get, the more I want to pray and the more I do pray. Yet the struggle remains what it always has been for me: my faith heats up when I quite easily imagine what God could do in my life and in the lives of others I pray for and in the church and in the world, given his sovereign power over things. But then it dawns on me that so many times God hasn’t granted what I and so many others have asked for. How can I be confident that my prayers will affect what he will do now in this or that situation?... I can’t be very confident—so my jets start cooling. The childlike expectation of receiving something good and the excitement at “watching the Lord work” evaporates. I keep praying but the confidence that God will really act into the situation seems to have evaporated. How can I believe God for something really specific I pray for when time and time again he has demonstrated that his ways are above me, past finding out?

But if it’s true that the resurrection of the Son, in some deep and powerful way, marks the formal beginning of the fulfillment of the promise of him who [says], “*Behold, I am making all things new*” (Revelation 21:5), then I must pray on, and put my confidence not in the number of specific prayers God answers for me—which easily turns into a “he loves me, he loves me not” kind of thing—but in God’s actual desire and determination to make all things new. He has set the resurrected Christ before you and me as the first installment of a New Creation. And everywhere in the world he’s at work.... God is serious about what he has promised us. And when we contemplate that, we will find—even though the devil uses our unanswered prayers to douse it—the fire of our faith and confidence in God heating up again.

— Ron Lutjens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – Meets tonight, April 25, 5:30-7pm at the Costens' (846 New Haven Ave.; park on Eels Hill Rd) for a picnic and inductive Bible study.

Women's Bible Study – Every-other-Tues. 7:30-9 pm, in person and on zoom (this week, April 27). 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

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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