



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

July 25, 2021  
10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating Jesus Christ, Caller of Disciples**

“Where he leads, I will follow.”

So says every true disciple of a master who is good.

God is Creator, we the creatures;

God is Lord, we the servants;

Christ is Master, we the disciples.

Praise the Lord in the highest!

For he who made us has not abandoned us,

But instead comes to teach, to shape, and to lead us.

Blessed be the Name of the One who takes us up

Into his grand work of restoring good to the world! Worship the One who calls us

To walk the same path of rejection he walked.

Adore him, for he, the high Master

Who could have kept us but servants,

Became for us a Friend who sticks closer than a brother!

.....

## TENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

### **Gathering Hymn**

### Endless Light

From the highest throne to the earth below

You laid down Your life for the likes of us

Great is the love of the Savior

From a wounded heart to a life made whole

Every human heart will declare as one

Great is the love of the Savior

### **Chorus**

Lord of endless light; Let Your glory shine forever

All the earth; All the earth sing Your praise

Hope of every heart; Let Your Name be lifted higher  
All our hearts; All our hearts sing Your praise

From the mountain heights to the valleys low  
All created things given life to show  
Jesus we live for Your glory  
From the rising sun to the still of night  
Every waking moment for Your delight  
Jesus we live for Your glory

### **Chorus**

God be exalted; God be exalted in everything  
We live for Your glory; Live for Your glory  
(Repeat)

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

### **Call to Worship**    Psalm 119:9-16

How can a young man keep his way pure?

**By guarding it according to your word.**

With my whole heart I seek you;

**let me not wander from your commandments!**

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

**Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!**

With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

**In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.**

I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.

**I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word**

Invocation

**Praise Hymn**        All Creatures of Our God and King

**Old Testament Lesson**    Joshua 24:14-18

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us  
 2 O rush-ing wind that art so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven a-  
 3 O flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to  
 4 All you who are of ten-der heart, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take your  
 5 Let all things their Cre-a-tor bless, and wor-ship him in hum-ble-

Asus A  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G D Bm  $\frac{A}{C\#}$  D E A  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  D Bm7  $\frac{A7}{E}$  D  $\frac{G}{B}$

sing Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O burn-ing sun with gold-en  
 long, O praise him, Al-le-lu-ia! O ris-ing morn in praise re-  
 hear, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O fire so mas-ter-ful and  
 part, sing prais-es, Al-le-lu-ia! All you who pain and sor-row  
 ness, O praise him, Al-le-lu-ia! Praise, praise the Fa-ther, praise the

Asus A  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{A7}{E}$  D  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{Dmaj7}{A}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{D}{A}$  G6  $\frac{A}{G}$   $\frac{D}{F\#}$  Em7  $\frac{D}{F\#}$

beam, and sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam, O praise him, O  
 joyce, O lights of eve-ning, find a voice, O praise him, O  
 bright, pro-vid-ing us with warmth and light, O praise him, O  
 bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O praise him, O  
 Son, and praise the Spir-it, Three in One, O praise him, O

G6 A7 Bm  $\frac{A}{C\#}$  D6 E A Bm7  $\frac{F\#m}{C\#}$  D Em  $\frac{A}{C\#}$   $\frac{B7}{D\#}$  Em  $\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{Em7}{G}$  A A7 D

praise him, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia!

## **Confession of Sin**

Lord, forgive us of our sins.

Wash us in Your Word.

Turn our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.

Give us ears that we may hear, and eyes that we may see.

Perfect that concerning us and make us whole.

For we have failed to love You with our whole hearts.

We have turned to our own way.

We are lost without You.

Lead us in the paths of righteousness, for Your name's sake.

May Your Word be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our pathway.

Order our steps and stops for Your glory. Grant us a worthy walk, holy habits, devoted discipleship, consistent compassion, and liberated love, that we may perfectly love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Absolution**

John 15:9-10, 12-16

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

## **Thanksgiving Hymn**

All I Have is Christ

I once was lost in darkest night  
Yet thought I knew the way  
The sin that promised joy and life  
Had led me to the grave  
I had no hope that You would own  
A rebel to Your will

And if You had not loved me first  
I would refuse You still

### **Chorus**

Hallelujah all I have is Christ  
Hallelujah Jesus is my life

But as I ran my hell-bound race  
Indifferent to the cost  
You looked upon my helpless state  
And led me to the cross  
And I beheld God's love displayed  
You suffered in my place  
You bore the wrath reserved for me  
Now all I know is grace

### **Chorus**

Now Lord I would be Yours alone  
And live so all might see  
The strength to follow Your commands  
Could never come from me  
O Father use my ransomed life  
In any way You choose  
And let my song forever be  
My only boast is You

### **Chorus**

**New Testament Lesson** Mark 8:31-38

### **Peace of Christ**

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

## 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.

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

## Sermon Text

I Peter 2:11-25

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

Resident Aliens: I Peter for Modern Christians | Pastor Curran Bishop

## Response Hymn

Amazing Grace

1. A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that saved a wretch like me!  
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;  
3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;  
4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his Word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
he will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.

5. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
a life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we've first begun.

## 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/](http://give.pcamna.org/to/1708/)

#### Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed (AD 325)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

begotten from the Father before all ages,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.

His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son,

and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,

and to life in the world to come. Amen.

\*the universal Christian Church in all times and places

## **Communion in Christ Jesus**

*All Christians are invited to receive Christ's presence of bread and wine. When directed please take your bulletin, stand and form a circle around the worship space. Whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle. If you are not able to stand, please move your chair into the circle. We serve wine in the outer rings of the tray in the Lord's Supper, believing it to be the Biblical element used. We provide grape juice in the inner rings for those who, out of conscience or for health, do not drink wine.*

## **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.*

## **Communion Hymn**                  Psalm 62 (verse 1-2)

My soul finds rest in God alone  
My rock and my salvation  
A fortress strong against my foes  
And I will not be shaken  
Though lips may bless and hearts may curse  
And lies like arrows pierce me  
I'll fix my heart on righteousness  
I'll look to Him who hears me

### **Chorus**

O praise Him hallelujah  
My Delight and my Reward  
Everlasting never failing  
My Redeemer my God

Find rest my soul in God alone

Amid the world's temptations  
When evil seeks to take a hold  
I'll cling to my salvation  
Though riches come and riches go  
Don't set your heart upon them  
The fields of hope in which I sow  
Are harvested in heaven

### **Chorus**

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

### **Coronation Hymn**          Psalm 62 (verse 3)

I'll set my gaze on God alone  
And trust in Him completely  
With ev'ry day pour out my soul  
And He will prove His mercy  
Though life is but a fleeting breath  
A sigh too brief to measure  
My King has crushed the curse of death  
And I am His forever

### **Bridge**

O praise Him O praise Him  
Hallelujah hallelujah  
(Repeat 2x)

### **Chorus**

### **Benediction**          I Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

## REFLECTION

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### **Master and Disciple**

God is a God who bears. The Son of God bore our flesh, he bore the cross, he bore our sins, thus making atonement for us. In the same way his followers are also called upon to bear, and that is precisely what it means to be a Christian. Just as Christ maintained his communion with the Father by his endurance, so his followers are to maintain their communion with Christ by their endurance. We can of course shake off the burden which is laid upon us, but only find that we have a still heavier burden to carry—a yoke of our own choosing, the yoke of our self. But Jesus invites—all who travail and are heavy laden to throw off their own yoke and take his yoke upon them—and his yoke is easy, and his burden is light. The yoke and the burden of Christ are his cross. To go one's way under the sign of the cross is not misery and desperation, but peace and refreshment for the soul, it is the highest joy. Then we do not walk under our self-made laws and burdens, but under the yoke of him who knows us and who walks under the yoke with us. Under his yoke we are certain of his nearness and communion. It is he whom the disciple finds as he lifts up his cross. As Martin Luther [has God] put it: Discipleship is not limited to what you can comprehend—it must transcend all comprehension. Plunge into the deep waters beyond your own comprehension, and I will help you to comprehend even as I do. Bewilderment is the true comprehension. Not to know where you are going is the true knowledge. My comprehension transcends yours. Thus Abraham went forth from his father, and not knowing where he went. He trusted himself to my knowledge, and cared not for his own, and thus he took the right road and came to his journey's end. Behold, that is the way of the cross. You cannot find it yourself, so you must let me lead you as though you were a blind man. Wherefore it is not you, no man, no living creature, but I myself, who instruct you by my Word and Spirit in the way you should go. Not the work which you choose, not the suffering you devise, but the road which is clean contrary to all that you choose or contrive or desire—that is the road you must take. To that I call you and in that you must be my disciple. If you do that, there is the acceptable time and there your master is come.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (1937)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group: Christmas in July!** – Tonight, July 25, 5:30-7pm at the Alburger house (97 Oxford Rd) for a midyear celebration of Christ's birth! Check the weekly email for a link to sign up to bring a dish, drink or side. Feel free to invite family, friends, and neighbors!

**Women's Bible Study** – We will be meeting on the following Saturdays: Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, and Sept. 25 from 9:00-10:30 AM, in person. Future locations will be announced. Please RSVP to [cpcmilford@gmail.com](mailto:cpcmilford@gmail.com) for location info.

**Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting** – 7-7:50pm. Regular prayer for each other, our community, our world and the redemptive work of God is essential to our mission. Please join us as we follow a short prayer and scripture liturgy and pray for each other. [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 | Passcode: 665297

**Summer Sunday Pop-Up Worship** – We'll be meeting at the MAC (40 Railroad Ave., Milford, CT 06460) for the month of August.

**BBQ Outreach with Christ Pres in the Hill** – Save the date to participate with our sister congregation in their outreach to their neighborhood on Wednesday, August 4.

### Contact us

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