



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

August 1, 2021  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating Jesus Christ, Friend of the Poor**

We call him Friend of Sinners, and so he is.  
But we worship and praise Christ  
also as Friend of the Poor.  
He who was rich, for our sake became poor,  
that through his poverty we might become rich!  
God is Giver and God is Friend;  
He has poured out his blessings upon us  
And extends to us the privilege of becoming  
givers in his name.  
Praise the Lord, you his godly ones;  
Come into his courts with praise!  
Before the Almighty all are poor;  
But he shares his riches with us,  
and through Christ calls us his friends  
that we too might befriend the poor.            Alleluia!

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### ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

#### **Gathering Hymn**

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

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

1 Come ye sin - ners, poor and nee - dy, Weak and woun - ded, sick and sore;  
 2 Come, ye thir - sty, come and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;  
 3 Come ye wea - ry, hea - vy - la - den, Lost and ru - ined by the fall;  
 4 Let not cons - cience make you lin - ger, Nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;

Je - sus read - y stands to save you, Full of pi - ty, love and pow'r.  
 True be - lief and true re - pen - tance, Ev' - ry grace that brings you nigh.  
 If you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, You will ne - ver come at all.  
 All the fit - ness He re - qui - reth Is to feel your need of Him.

*Chorus*

I will a - rise and go to Je - sus, He will em - brace me in His arms;

In the arms of my dear Sa - vior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

## Call to Worship Psalm 146:5-10

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,  
**who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,**  
who keeps faith forever;

**who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

**The LORD watches over the sojourners;**

**he upholds the widow and the fatherless,**

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever,

**your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

## Invocation

## Praise Hymn O For a Thousand Tongues

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O For a Thousand Tongues'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The first system includes a bass clef staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: G, D, G, D, G, Em, D, G, D7, G, D. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The second system also includes a bass clef staff and has chord symbols G, C, F, G.D, D7, G. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2. My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
3. Je-sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease;  
4. He breaks the pow'r of reign-ing sin, he sets the pris-ner free;

the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace.  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of thy name.  
'tis mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.  
his blood can make the foul-est clean, his blood a-vailed for me.

5. He speaks and, list'ning to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;  
the humble poor believe.

6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
your loosen'd tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Savior come;  
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

## Old Testament Lesson Amos 8:2-10

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

### Confession of Sin

For feeding and guarding the old Adam in me, when you command me to crucify him;

**Lord Jesus forgive me.**

For the hard-heartedness, which sooner or later leads to the lie that the world - and not you - holds the promise of life: **Lord Jesus forgive me.**

For too often being numb to the pleasure of things you created for my good.

For my boredom with the world; **Heavenly Father forgive me.**

For refusing the pain of dying, each day, to all selfish passions:

**Heavenly Father forgive me.**

For living too much on the edge of despair, though I live on this side of the empty tomb:

**Lord Jesus forgive me.**

For the half-heartedness of my love of what is really Life,

For being satisfied with too little of your power in me,

For the way I take your good gifts for granted: **Lord Jesus forgive me.**

For my boredom with the Word,

For the cowardice that makes me afraid to be known as a Christian,

For a faith that shakes like a leaf in the wind: **Heavenly Father forgive me.**

For my indifference to the pain of others, For the sluggishness of my desire for you,

For believing the lie that I need pleasures I can taste and touch, more than I need you;

**Heavenly Father forgive me.**

For all my offenses, and all my wanderings:

**O Lord God, forgive me, for your own Names sake. Amen.**

### Absolution

Matthew 5:2-11

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you  
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

**Thanksgiving Hymn**      Come People of the Risen King

Come people of the Risen King  
Who delight to bring Him praise  
Come all and tune your hearts to sing  
To the Morning Star of grace  
From the shifting shadows of the earth  
We will lift our eyes to Him  
Where steady arms of mercy reach  
To gather children in

**Chorus**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart one voice  
O Church of Christ rejoice!

Come those whose joy is morning sun  
And those weeping through the night  
Come those who tell of battles won  
And those struggling in the fight  
For His perfect love will never change  
And His mercies never cease  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace

**Chorus**

Come young and old from ev'ry land  
Men and women of the faith  
Come those with full or empty hands  
Find the riches of His grace  
Over all the world His people sing  
Shore to shore we hear them call

The truth that cries through ev'ry age  
Our God is all in all

### **Chorus**

**New Testament Lesson** Matthew 25:31-46

### **Peace of Christ**

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

### **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

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

**Sermon Text** I Peter 3:1-7

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

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

**Response Hymn** Psalm 146

— 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/](http://give.pcamna.org/to/1708/)

**Celtic Alleluia**



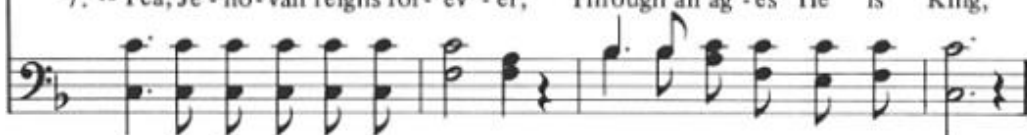
1. <sup>1</sup>Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise Je - ho - vah! O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise!  
3. <sup>5</sup>Hap - py is the man that choo - es Ja - cob's God to be his aid;  
5. Food Je - ho - vah gives the hun - gry, <sup>8</sup>Sight Je - ho - vah gives the blind,



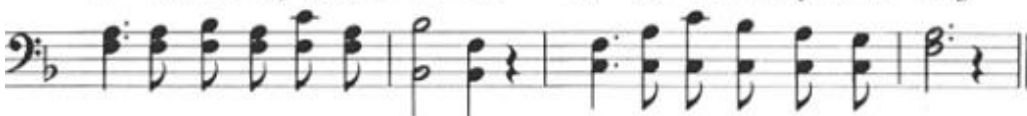
<sup>2</sup>While I live I'll praise Je - ho - vah, Praise my God through all my days.  
He is blessed whose hope of bless - ing On the LORD his God is stayed.  
<sup>7</sup>Free - dom gives HE to the pris - 'ner, <sup>8</sup>Cheer to those bowed down in mind.



2. <sup>3</sup>Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, Nor for help on man de - pend;  
4. <sup>6</sup>He has made the earth and heav - en, Seas, and all that they con - tain;  
6. Well Je - ho - vah loves the right - eous <sup>9</sup>To the stran - ger is a stay,  
7. <sup>10</sup>Yea, Je - ho - vah reigns for - ev - er; Through all ag - es He is King,



<sup>4</sup>He shall die, to dust re - turn - ing, And his pur - pos - es shall end.  
He will keep His truth for - ev - er, <sup>7</sup>Rights of those op - pressed main - tain.  
Helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow, But sub - verts the sin - ner's way.  
E - ven He, thy God, O Zi - on; To Je - ho - vah prais - es sing!





## **Confession of Faith** Westminster Standards, Directory for Public Worship (1647)

That what time is vacant, between or after the solemn meetings of the congregation in public, be spent in reading, meditation, repetition of sermons; especially by calling their families to an account of what they have heard, and catechising of them, holy conferences, prayer for a blessing upon the public ordinances, singing of psalms, visiting the sick, relieving the poor, and such like duties of piety, charity, and mercy, accounting the sabbath a delight.

## **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.*

## **Communion Hymn** Just As I Am (verses 1-2)

Just as I am without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God I come I come

Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot  
O Lamb of God I come I come

## **Chorus**

I come broken to be mended  
I come wounded to be healed  
I come desperate to be rescued  
I come empty to be filled  
I come guilty to be pardoned  
By the blood of Christ the Lamb  
And I'm welcomed with open arms praise God  
Just as I am

## **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**          Just As I Am (verse 3)

Just as I am I would be lost  
But mercy and grace my freedom bought  
And now to glory in Your cross  
O Lamb of God I come I come

## **Chorus**

## **Benediction**          Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ!  
Amen.

## REFLECTION

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### **Being Christ to the Poor**

How could the God who promises to provide for us allow children to live without basic necessities? How could the God of protection allow whole families to fall through the cracks of our social system? How could the God of compassion watch as the elderly suffer because they can't afford air-conditioning? These are hard questions and I could not pretend to answer them satisfactorily over a cup of coffee, even more so in this single page of a bulletin.

However, there are answers. First, God is all powerful, but evil still has a crippling effect on our world. Poverty exists because sin is real and powerful and destructive. Sin affects the way we cherish our "stuff." Sin affects the way we spend our money. Sin affects the way we give or don't give. Think of this: the way you spend your resources is part of the answer to the question "Why there is there so much poverty in our world?"...

Second, God did not leave us in our state of sin and misery. God could have left the world to itself completely, leaving all of humankind physically and spiritually poor.

Thankfully, he did not. Instead he joined us in our poverty and misery. Even more, he took upon himself the full and final outcome of evil, death (Phil. 2:1-11).

Third, God gives us hope. Even while we suffer the crippling nature of our sin and the sin of others, we need not despair. One day soon those that are followers of Christ will be with him and these days will be forgotten. [Romans 8:18]

Finally, God tells us to give. How should we live until that glory is revealed? By giving of our resources (time, money, skills, gifts) for the benefit of those in need, like Jesus did. Historically, the church has given more to aid the poor than most all other organizations. However, studies have shown that Christian giving has decreased dramatically over the last 50 years (see [www.generousgiving.org](http://www.generousgiving.org)). An article in World magazine suggested that if followers of Christ actually gave 10%, the church would gain \$156 billion dollars (currently the average per Christian is 2.9%). This is money that could be used to feed the poor, protect the weak.... But instead we think we need the latest cell phone, plasma TV, entertainment center, wireless network, organic veggies, sleep-comfort bed, laptop, insert more stuff here. I am not saying it is wrong to have these things. I have some of them and would love to have more of them. But when these things take priority over giving to the church and its mission to the world, then our understanding of God's provision has been perverted. Pray for the willingness and courage to give of your resources. Perhaps start out small, but do something! Like Jesus did for you, begin to be a friend to the poor.

—Mark Tucker, St. Louise Church Planter/Pastor, 2007

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group:** Meeting tonight, August 1, 5:30-7pm at Liz Morelli's house (601 Woodruff Rd., Milford, 06460) for a picnic and community building time. 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!

**Men's Breakfast** – Wednesdays at 7am, Pop's Restaurant (134 Old Gate Ln, Milford, CT 06460). We meet with no agenda or study, but to create a space for guys to form a strong community where important questions can be discussed and answered. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

**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

**Women's Bible Study** – Meets next on Saturday, August 14 from 9-10:30am. Please RSVP to [cpcmilford@gmail.com](mailto:cpcmilford@gmail.com) for location info.

**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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