



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

August 15, 2021
13th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Time

Before the beginning, before there was time, God was.
Glorious, majestic, pure as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God was.

Then came the world;
then came the world and its time,
its seasons and its rhythms of time;
And God called what he had made, good.

But the Rebellion changed all.
Time—the great pleasure, the great opportunity—
was set against us:
Death would use it to work our decay;
Sin would use it to teach us boredom;
The world would use it to cool our love;
Satan would use it to rob us of hope.

But thanks be to God!
When the time had fully come, He sent forth his Son,
Born of a woman, Born in time,
to rescue us from the futility of a broken world.

Praise this eternal Lord, in the morning light,
in the midday weariness, in the evening shadows,
For he redeems us from guilt and sanctifies our time!

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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

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

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.

Call to Worship

Colossians 1:15–20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

And he is the head of the body, the church.

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Invocation

Praise 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

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

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 90

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

Confession of Sin A Prayer to Confess Fear of the Future

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.

Absolution Colossians 2:9–15

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Thanksgiving Hymn God of Wonders

Lord of all creation
Of water earth and sky
The heavens are Your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high

Chorus

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy holy
Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth

Early in the morning
I will celebrate the light
When I stumble in the darkness
I will call Your name by night

Chorus

Bridge

Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy holy
Precious Lord reveal Your heart to me
Father hold me hold me
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy holy

New Testament Lesson Acts 17:22-28

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

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

Sermon Text I Peter 4:1-11

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

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

Response Hymn Crown Him with Many Crowns

— 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/

Sinclair Alleluia

Confession of Faith Westminster Confession of Faith (1647), Chapter 3:
God from all eternity did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.

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.

r 7

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time;

hark! how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own:
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:

a - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 his reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 all hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me:

r 7

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flow'rs of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Communion Hymn

Chorus

Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord our God our maker
We belong to Him (repeat 2x)

Come let us eat, come let us eat
Come let us eat with Him the bread which gives us life
Come let us eat, come let us eat with Him
Let us revel in what He's done for us

Chorus

Come let us drink. come let us drink
Come let us drink with Him the wine which gives us life
Come let us drink, come let us drink with Him
Let us revel in what He's done for us

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

Threefold Amen

The image shows musical notation for two hymns. The top staff is for 'Coronation Hymn' and the bottom staff is for 'Threefold Amen'. Both are in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The 'Coronation Hymn' melody is on a treble clef staff, and the 'Threefold Amen' melody is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - - men.' are written below the notes.

Benediction Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

REFLECTION

Innumerable are the evils that beset human life; innumerable, too, the deaths that threaten it. We need not go beyond ourselves: since our body is the receptacle of a thousand diseases — in fact holds within itself and fosters the causes of diseases — a man cannot go about unburdened by many forms of his own destruction, and without drawing out a life enveloped, as it were, with death. For what else would you call it, when he neither freezes nor sweats without danger? Now, wherever you turn, all things around you not only are hardly to be trusted but almost openly menace, and seem to threaten immediate death. Embark upon a ship, you are one step away from death. Mount a horse, if one foot slips, your life is imperiled. Go through the city streets, you are subject to as many dangers as there are tiles on the roofs. If there is a weapon in your hand or a friend's, harm awaits. All the fierce animals you see are armed for your destruction. But if you try to shut yourself up in a walled garden, seemingly delightful, there a serpent sometimes lies hidden. Your house, continually in danger of fire, threatens in the daytime to impoverish you, at night even to collapse upon you. Your field, since it is exposed to hail, frost, drought, and other calamities, threatens you with barrenness, and hence, famine. I pass over poisonings, ambushes, robberies, open violence, which in part besiege us at home, in part dog us abroad. Amid these tribulations must not man be most miserable, since, but half alive in life, he weakly draws his anxious and languid breath, as if he had a sword perpetually hanging over his neck?

You will say: these events rarely happen, or at least not all the time, nor to all men, and never all at once. I agree; but since we are warned by the examples of others that these can also happen to ourselves, and that our life ought not to be excepted any more than theirs, we cannot but be frightened and terrified as if such events were about to happen to us. What, therefore, more calamitous can you imagine than such trepidation? Besides that, if we say that God has exposed man, the noblest of creatures, to all sorts of blind and heedless blows of fortune, we are not guiltless of reproaching God. But here I propose to speak only of that misery which man will feel if he is brought under the sway of fortune.

Yet, when that light of divine providence has once shone upon a godly man, he is then relieved and set free not only from the extreme anxiety and fear that were pressing him before, but from every care. For as he justly dreads fortune, so he fearlessly dares commit himself to God. His solace, I say, is to know that his Heavenly Father so holds all things in his power, so rules by his authority and will, so governs by his wisdom, that nothing can befall except he determine it.

—John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1.17.10-11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group: Meeting tonight, August 15, 5:30-7pm at the Foremans' house (14 Central Ave., 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.

Women's Bible Study – Meets next on Saturday, August 28 from 9-10:30am. Please RSVP to 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: 899 5618 6470 | Passcode: 355978

Sunday Worship – We'll be meeting at the MAC (40 Railroad Ave., Milford, CT 06460) for the months of August and September.

Contact us

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