



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

September 12, 2021

Commissioning Service

REFLECTION

I get asked “why a new church?” a lot. I think what drives the question is a sense that a new church means more fragmentation; a sign of division rather than coming together. It’s a fair question. What I’d point out though, is that only 14% of New Englanders attend religious services with any regularity. We aren’t looking to steal from that small fraction of people who are already involved in a church, but to learn how to serve the 86% of the people who aren’t being served.

Another way to think of it is by comparison to the restaurant industry. We wouldn’t really want a town where all the restaurants have gotten together and only serve one menu; when a new restaurant opens it adds to the diversity on the restaurant scene and improves the picture for everyone: other restaurants become better and more creative for having more restauranteurs in the area, eaters get more options and variety and a better experience.

We want every human being to belong to a community that is shaped by the Gospel and that exists for the glory of God and the good of our neighbor. We believe that starting a new church is the best way to bring the Gospel to a community. We believe the world is broken: nature, social systems, government, Wall Street, our local communities, you and me. All around us and inside us we see that things are “not the way it’s supposed to be.” The Gospel is the good news that God has entered into his creation in Christ to restore what is broken. The local church is the tool God uses to bring about this restoration because, God who is perfectly Other, became local and present in Christ. The local church brings this infinite Gospel into our particular realities. As we start to believe the Gospel it changes everything from the way we live as neighbors and friends, to the way we parent our children, to how we interact with the world at large.

Commissioning Service of Christ Presbyterian Church, Milford

Welcome

Pastor Curran Bishop

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

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1–2; 116:12–14

Pastor Mike Brunjes

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

Invocation

Praise Hymn

O Church Arise

O church arise and put your armor on
Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle cry is Love
Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valour
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for which He died
An inheritance of nations

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet
For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him

So Spirit come put strength in every stride
Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory

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

Confession of Sin

O gracious Father, we come humbly to ask for your Church, that you would be pleased to fill it with all truth, in all peace.

where is corrupt, purify it;

where it is in error, enlighten it;

where it is in anything misguided, reform it;

for the Spirit, in a great mystery, calls your Church the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Where is right, establish and humble it;

where it is in need, provide for it;

where is divided, reunite it;

All for the sake of him who died and rose again, and ever lives to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ, your Son, the King in Head of the Church, from whom, through whom, And for whom, all things exist. Amen.

1. The chur-ch's one Foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. Tho' with a scorn-ful won - der, men see her sore op - pressed,
 4. The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord, to de - fend,
 5. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 6. Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God the Three in One,

she is His new cre - a - tion, by wa - ter and the Word;
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

from heav'n He came and sought her to be His ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food;
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 tho' there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 a - gainst the foe or trait - or she ev - er shall pre - vail.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with Thee.

Absolution

Isaiah 43:25

I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,
and I will not remember your sins.

Thanksgiving Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

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

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Homily

Pastor Andrew Holbrook

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him, all creatures here below

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

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

Organization of a Mission Church

Pastor Preston Graham

Vows for Membership

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save [except] in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

Vows for Pastor

1. Are you now willing to serve this congregation as their pastor, agreeable to your declaration in accepting its call?
2. Do you conscientiously believe and declare, as far as you know your own heart, that, in taking upon you this charge, you are influenced by a sincere desire to promote the glory of God and the good of the Church?
3. Do you solemnly promise that, by the assistance of the grace of God, you will endeavor faithfully to discharge all the duties of a pastor to this congregation, and will be careful to maintain a deportment in all respects becoming a minister of the Gospel of Christ, agreeable to your ordination engagements?

Vows for Members

1. Do you, the people of this congregation, continue to profess your readiness to receive Pastor Curran Bishop, whom you have called to be your pastor of church planting?
2. Do you promise to receive the word of truth from his mouth with meekness and love?
3. Do you promise to encourage him in his labors, and to assist his endeavors for your instruction and spiritual edification?
4. Do you engage to continue to him while he is your pastor that competent worldly maintenance which you have promised, and to furnish him with whatever you may see needful for the honor of religion and for his comfort among you?

Vows for Mission Church

Do you, in reliance on God for strength, solemnly promise and covenant that you will walk together as a particular church, on the principles of the faith and order of the Presbyterian Church in America, and that you will be zealous and faithful in maintaining the purity and peace of the whole body?

Pronouncement

I now pronounce and declare that you are constituted a church according to the Word of God and the faith and order of the Presbyterian Church in America. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Exhortation to Pastor

Pastor Craig Luekens

Exhortation to Members

Elder Rob Hawks

Prayer for Congregation

Pastor Mike Bulkley

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

Coronation Hymn

All Glory Be To Christ

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn; All glory be to Christ

Chorus

All glory be to Christ our king
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

His will be done His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet; All glory be to Christ

Chorus

When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall e'er his people be; All glory be to Christ

Chorus

Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21

Pastor Curran Bishop

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

NOTES

Kids Word Search

Q R V R I P I G T Z S E R V I C E T L S
U X C O M M U N I T Y U K S D L P L W C
X Z M C A Z X S H Y F S U R L O A C V R
F L A A I P G X E P F T O A K C N H R I
P R A Y E R O B M R J F I G F A H U E P
L F R H L R D R H A L N G P M L O R F T
P R C O M M I S S I O N I N G Q J C D U
N A U V O W S C M S N O C B W K R H N R
C Q F X E K W S C E C G C A M D E B I E
F H E J B G R O R Z B M P L F A U O B H
K F P Z P R D D R G A C I L W K H W S O
U U E O G A S G P S W Y R S W L D M X M
V S P J Q C H W G Q H E E X S T U V V I
S K F K A I R E Y N M I W S S I S V O L
A O C D C O V O P O I F P D M T O V A Y
Y M V Z Y U C H P H R B U E Z W T N W G
D U X H N S W N U I U T W L U F U K X A
M S S P U A Z F C A Y Z O O V M S R U A
Q E F G Q I G L J G K E O O T I N T L I
D G J Y N H J R B U J M O W E Y K A B K

MILFORD
COMMISSIONING
SERVICE
VOWS
HOMILY
MISSION
CHURCH
CALL
PRAISE
GRACIOUS
SCRIPTURE
PRAYER
LOCAL
WORSHIP
COMMUNITY

WE ARE A LOCAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Local

We are a church in and for our community. We want to celebrate its goodness, serve its specific needs, and work towards the flourishing of all its citizens. We worship in the voice of our community and seek to be a church that grows organically out of our neighborhoods. We are committed to working for the common good. We look to serve, not to be served. We look to give, not to take. We are eager to bless others because we have been blessed by God.

Presbyterian

Being Presbyterian means we are led by elders and connected with other churches. This provides accountability, oversight, and produces real pastoral care. We are part of the Reformed Tradition which teaches that God knows us intimately and enables us to know Him intimately. We believe that life in relationship with God is not only possible but vibrant. That God is the initiator of this relationship and the whole is based on grace and forgiveness offered to us in the being and action of Jesus Christ.

Church

We believe that church is not an event or a program but rather a family. A place where you no longer have to choose between being really known or really loved. Within the family of God we don't need to perform in order to be accepted. We no longer relate to each other based upon our past failures or future potential but rather we relate to each other as brothers and sisters who have been loved by God in Christ!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group: Sunday nights from 5:30-7:00pm; we alternate between a Bible study one week and a picnic and community building time the next. 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: 899 5618 6470 | Passcode: 355978

Sunday Worship – We'll be meeting at the MAC (40 Railroad Ave., Milford, CT 06460) through October 24th at 10:30am.

Women's Bible Study – Has adjourned, having completed the book Steadfast, and will reconvene in several weeks. More details to follow!

Contact us

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