



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

September 19, 2021  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating Peter’s Great Confession: Jesus Christ, the Son of God**

The Church is the company of all who believe,  
Together with their children.  
Yet singly we come, One by one we bow  
And confess with our own lips,  
Believe in our own mind, Trust with our own heart:  
**“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!”**  
The church is corporate, filled with the Spirit of God,  
Is mighty in its prayers,  
Awesome in its witness to Jesus Christ.  
Praise the Lord that he gathers us together!  
Praise God for the privilege of spurring each other on  
To love and good deeds and faith!  
But in the end, the power of the church,  
The power of the many in the hand of God,  
Is nothing but the multiplied power of one—  
That one who humbly says,  
**“Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!”**

.....

### EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

#### **Gathering Hymn**

We Come, O Christ, to You

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

1. We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,  
 2. You are the Way to God, your blood our ran - som paid;  
 3. You are the liv - ing Truth! All wis - dom dwells in you,  
 4. You on - ly are true Life, to know you is to live  
 5. We wor - ship you, Lord Christ, our Sav - ior and our King,

by whom all things con - sist, in whom all life be - gan: in you a -  
 in you we face our Judge and Mak - er un - a - fraid. Be - fore the  
 • the Source of ev - ery skill, the one e - ter - nal TRUE! O great I  
 the more a - bun - dant life that earth can nev - er give: O ris - en  
 to you our youth and strength a - dor - ing - ly we bring: so fill our

• lone we live and move, and have our be - ing in your love.  
 throne ab - solved we stand, your love has met your law's de - mand.  
 • AM! In you we rest, sure an - swer to our ev - ery quest.  
 Lord! We live in you: in us each day your life re - new!  
 hearts, that all may view your life in us, and turn to you.

– Work as a Gift from God: Grace from Love –

**Call to Worship**                      from Hosea 6:1-3:

Come, let us return to the LORD;  
    **for he has torn us, that he may heal us;**  
    **he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.**

After two days he will revive us;  
    **on the third day he will raise us up,**  
    **that we may live before him.**

Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;  
    **his going out is sure as the dawn;**  
    **he will come to us as the showers,**  
    **as the spring rains that water the earth.**

**Invocation**

**Praise Hymn**                      Is He Worthy? (Verse 1-2)

Do you feel the world is broken? - **We do**  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? - **We do**

But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through?  
**We do**

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? - **We do**

**Is all creation groaning?** - It is  
**Is a new creation coming?** - It is  
**Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst?**- It is  
**Is it good that we remind ourselves of this?** - It is

*Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole*  
*Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll*  
*The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave*  
*He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave*  
*Is He worthy, Is He worthy*  
*Of all blessing and honor and glory*  
*Is He worthy of this?* - He is

## Old Testament Lesson Deuteronomy 5:22-33

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

### Confession of Sin

#### Confession Hymn Psalm 51

God, be merciful to me;  
On Thy grace I rest my plea  
Plenteous in compassion Thou,  
Blot out my transgressions now;  
Wash me, make me pure within;  
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess;  
Grief and guilt my soul oppress.  
I have sinned against Thy grace,  
And provoked Thee to Thy face.  
I confess Thy judgement just;  
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin;  
Thou desirest truth within.  
Thou alone my Savior art,  
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;  
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,  
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust  
By Thy wrath and judgment just,  
Let my contrite heart rejoice,  
And in gladness hear Thy voice;  
From my sins O hide Thy face,  
Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew,  
Make my spirit right and true.  
Cast me not away from Thee,  
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;  
Thy salvation's joy impart,  
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me,  
And return, O God, to Thee  
Savior all my guilt remove,  
And my tongue shall sing Thy love  
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,  
And my mouth shall praise accord

## Individual Confession

**Absolution**            John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**Thanksgiving Hymn**            Is He Worthy? (Verse 3)

Does the Father truly love us? - **He does**  
Does the Spirit move among us? - **He does**  
And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? - **He does**  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? - **He does**

***Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
From ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue  
He has made us a kingdom and priests  
To God to reign with the Son  
Is He worthy, Is He worthy  
Of all blessing and honor and glory  
Is He worthy, Is He worthy  
Is He worthy of this? – He is***

## **New Testament Lesson** Matthew 16:13-20

### **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 5:1-5

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

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

**– Work as Rededication of Our Life & Heart –**

### **Response Hymn** O God of Earth and Altar

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

**Bringing Our Life to God** Prayers | Collection | Profession

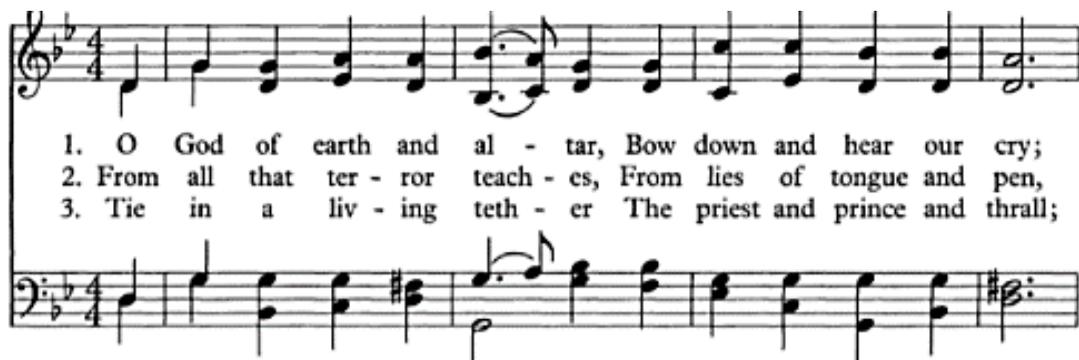
### **Prayers of the People**

**Collection** text **MNA 1708** to **76959** and follow the prompts  
or visit [give.pcamna.org/to/1708/](http://give.pcamna.org/to/1708/)

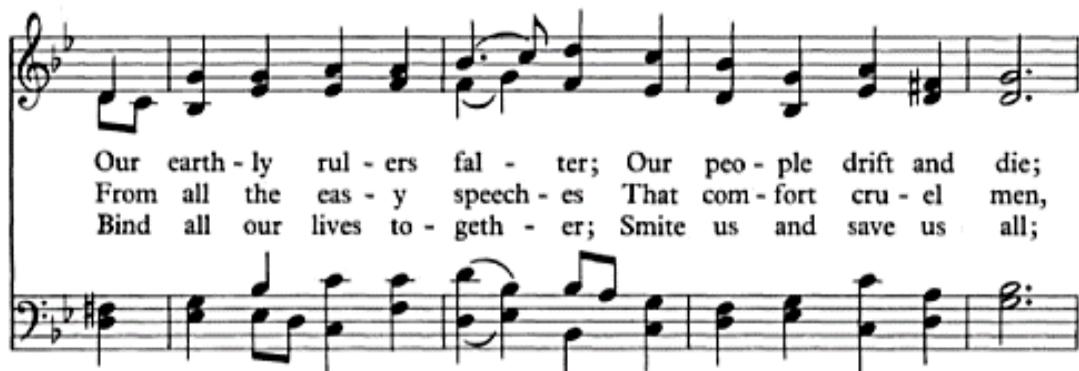
### **Sinclair Alleluia**

**Confession of Faith** from Westminster Confession of Faith (1647), Ch 8

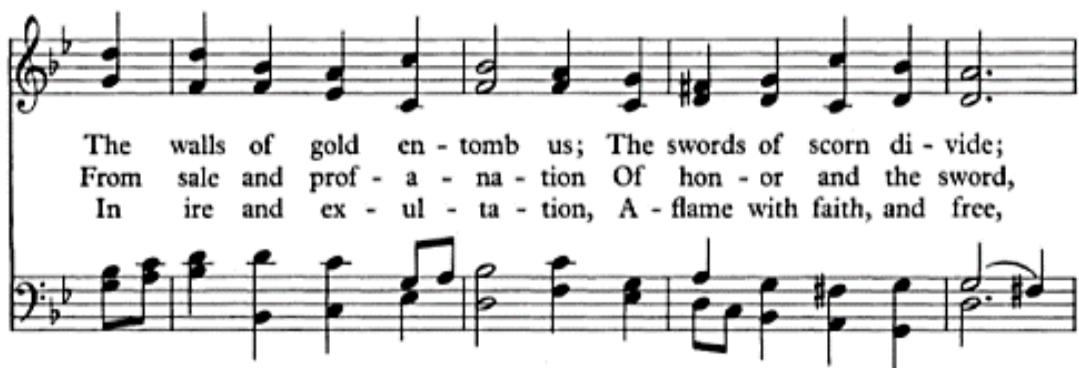
It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only-begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King; the Head and Saviour of his Church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world; unto whom he did, from all eternity, give a people to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.



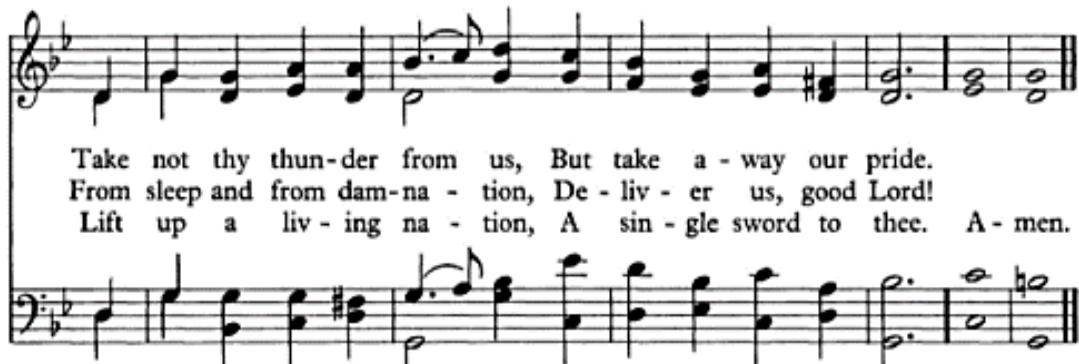
1. O God of earth and al - tar, Bow down and hear our cry;  
2. From all that ter - ror teach - es, From lies of tongue and pen,  
3. Tie in a liv - ing teth - er The priest and prince and thrall;



Our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter; Our peo - ple drift and die;  
From all the eas - y speech - es That com - fort cru - el men,  
Bind all our lives to - geth - er; Smite us and save us all;



The walls of gold en - tomb us; The swords of scorn di - vide;  
From sale and prof - a - na - tion Of hon - or and the sword,  
In ire and ex - ul - ta - tion, A - flame with faith, and free,



Take not thy thun - der from us, But take a - way our pride.  
From sleep and from dam - na - tion, De - liv - er us, good Lord!  
Lift up a liv - ing na - tion, A sin - gle sword to thee. A - men.

The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin: being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.

### **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**            The Son of God Goes Forth to War (Verses 1-3)

### **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**            The Son of God Goes Forth to War (Verse 4)

**Benediction**            1 Peter 5:8-11

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a

little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## REFLECTION

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### **Who is He?**

The proliferation of Jesus images did not end with the canonization of the Bible, or even the Crusades or the Reformation. Jesus may be “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 12:8), but American depictions of him have varied from age to age and community to community.... At least in the United States, Jesus has stood not on some unchanging rock of ages but on the shifting sands of economic circumstances, political calculations, and cultural trends....

This American Jesus has not been solely a Christian concern, however. To be sure, most American conceptions of him have been produced and consumed by Christians. But the power of Christians to put Jesus on the national agenda has compelled Americans of all faiths to weigh in on him. Speaking on Judaism in late nineteenth century America, the [Jewish] New Testament scholar Samuel Sandmel observed that “no Jew breathing the free air of America could refrain from coming to grips in some way with Christianity and with Jesus.” And American Jews have not been alone. Atheists and agnostics, Black Muslims and white Buddhists have also reckoned with America (and with their own identities) by wrestling with Jesus. Moreover, outside the churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples, the American Jesus has insinuated himself into supposedly secular venues, including television and the movies. In the process, he has become an athlete and an aesthete, a polygamist and a celibate, an advertising man and a mountaineer, a Hindu deity and a Buddha-to-be.

All this is to say that Jesus has an American history. To hold Jesus up to the mirror of American culture is to conduct a Rorschach test of ever-changing national sensibilities. What Americans have seen in him as been an expression of their own hopes and fears—a reflection not simply of some “wholly other” divinity but also of themselves and their nation.

This book examines those hopes and fears, exploring not only what Americans have said about Jesus but also what their malleable and multiform Jesus has to say about the United States. Its subject is neither the “living Christ” of faith nor the “historical Jesus” of scholarship. It says nothing about who Jesus really is, and distinguishes itself from stacks of recent Jesus quest books by remaining silent about who he really was. My quest is for... Jesus as he has been interpreted and reinterpreted, construed and misconstrued, in the messy midrash of American culture.

-- Stephen Prothero, *American Jesus:  
How the Son of God Became a National Icon* (2003)

1. The Son of God goes forth to war, A king - ly crown to gain;  
 2. The mar - tyr first, whose ea - gle eye Could pierce be - yond the grave;  
 3. A glo - rious band, the cho - sen few On whom the Spir - it came,  
 4. A no - ble ar - my, men and boys, The ma - tron and the maid,

His blood - red ban - ner streams a - far! Who fol - lows in His train?  
 Who saw his Mas - ter in the sky, And called on Him to save.  
 Twelve val - iant saints, their hope they knew, And mocked the cross and flame.  
 A - round the Sav - ior's throne re - joice In robes of light ar - rayed.

Who best can drink His cup of woe, Tri - um - phant o - ver pain,  
 Like Him, with par - don on His tongue, In midst of mor - tal pain,  
 They met the ty - rant's bran - dished steel, The li - on's gor - y mane;  
 They climbed the steep as - cent of heav'n, Through per - il, toil and pain;

Who pa - tient bears his cross be - low, He fol - lows in His train.  
 He prayed for them that did the wrong! Who fol - lows in His train?  
 They bowed their necks the death to feel: Who fol - lows in their train?  
 O God, to us may grace be giv'n To fol - low in their train.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group:** Meeting tonight, September 19, 5:30-7pm at the Bishop's house, 21 Green Street, 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! We're resume inductive Bible study next week.

**Men's Breakfast** – Wednesdays at 7am, Pop's Restaurant (134 Old Gate Ln, Milford, CT 06460). We meet with no agenda but to create 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.

**Men's & Women's Monthly Bible Study** – Coming soon: more details to follow!

**Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship** – Coming soon: more details to follow!

### Contact us

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