



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

October 24, 2021
23rd Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Our Sanctification in Jesus Christ, By Faith Working

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ,
who takes our condemnation
and gives us his righteousness when we look away
from our performance and trust his at the cross.
Thanks be to God who thus justifies us by a faith
which quietly rests rather than feverishly works!
But thanks be to him, too, who sanctifies us—
Who presses holiness into our character—
by a faith which works rather than rests.
O God, make us ever confident that Christ
by his Spirit is in us to empower our feeble efforts,
that we might grow into the character of our Lord.
O God, teach me what gratitude I owe you,
so that wrestling my body into submission to your righteousness
will not be a burden but a great high privilege
of being co-worker with you:
as you purify me, as you change me,
as you love me, as you use me,
for Christ's sake, whose I am.
Alleluia and Amen!

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TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

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

Call to Worship

Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
**even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with
Christ—**
by grace you have been saved—

and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Gathering Hymn Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Invocation

Praise Hymn The Tree of Life



All 1. There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom, whose leaves hold
Women 2. Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!" There on its
Men 3. Thorns not his own are tan - gled in its fo - liage; our greed has
Choir 4. See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come; hear what the
All 5. This is my end - ing, this my res - ur - rec - tion; in - to your
All 6. All heav'n is sing - ing, "Thanks to Christ whose Pas - sion of - fers in



forth the heal - ing of the na - tions: Tree of all know - ledge,
branch - es see the scars of suf - fering; see where the ten - drills
starved it, our de - spite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its
Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry! Give me your sick - ness,
hands, Lord, I com - mit my spir - it. This have I searched for;
mer - cy heal - ing, strength and par - don. Peo - ples and na - tions,



Tree of all com - pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
of our hu - man self - hood feed on its life - blood.
grief has not de - stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
give me all your sor - row, I will give bless - ing."
now I can pos - sess it. This ground is ho - ly.
take it, take it free - ly!" A - men! My Mas - ter!

1. Come, Chris - tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;
 he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 on heav - en's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

Old Testament Lesson Joshua 1:1–11

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

Confession of Sin

Holy and loving God, you have loved us with a love irrevocable and incorruptible, we confess that which you already know – **we have sinned in thought.**

Let us confess our sins of thoughts and attitudes.

Mighty and merciful God, who has forgiven us with a forgiveness irrevocable and incorruptible we confess that which you already know – **we have sinned in word.**

Let us confess our sins of speech.

Good and gracious God, who has filled us with a Spirit irrevocable and incorruptible we confess that which you already know – **we have sinned in deed.**

Let us confess our sins of action, and failure to act.

We have sinned: **in thought; in word; in deed.**

For the sake of your Son and our Savior, have mercy on us.

Absolution Romans 8:1–4, 9–13

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Thanksgiving Hymn

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Chorus

New Testament Lesson Galatians 5:16–25

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.

1. At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
 2. At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
 3. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 4. In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5. Broth - ers, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,

ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now,
 all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
 • from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry, with his an - gel train;

'Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
 • faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
 • brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

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Sermon Text Psalm 50

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

Sermon The Freedom of Religion | Mike Taliercio

Response Hymn At the Name of Jesus

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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/

The Lord's Prayer (Lascoe)

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread, Forgive our debts as we forgive
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from all evil
For Thine is the kingdom, Thine is the power
Thine is the glory, Forever and ever Amen amen

Confession of Faith Westminster Confession of Faith (1647), Chapter 13

They who are effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified, really and personally, through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them; the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, and the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified, and they more and more quickened and strengthened, in all saving graces, to the practice of true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

This sanctification is throughout in the whole person, yet imperfect in this life; there abides still some remnants of corruption in every part, from which arises a continual and irreconcilable war, the flesh lusting against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh.

In this war, although the remaining corruption for a time may much prevail, yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome; and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

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 Establish the Work of Our Hands

If You don't build it we labor in vain
Without Your Spirit we stand with no strength
I know my life is passing away
But the works of Your hands are what will remain

Chorus

Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us
O Lord establish the work of our hands (repeat)

Teach us to number the length of our days
Pour out Your power we'll pour out Your praise
Teach us to run to finish the race
For only what's done in love will remain

Chorus

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (repeat)

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

Establish the Work of Our Hands

Chorus

Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us
 O Lord establish the work of our hands (repeat)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (repeat)

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.

Psalm 50

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

MIGHTY
 EARTH
 ZION
 PERFECTION
 BEAUTY
 FAITHFUL
 HEAR
 OFFERINGS
 CATTLE
 THOUSAND
 CALL
 TROUBLE
 COMPANY
 SILENT
 ORDERS

REFLECTION

The Work Project

The Haunted Heart: The heart is a maze that only God can solve (Jeremiah 17:9-10). Computers can't decipher its floor plan. We modestly admit we don't know someone else's heart, but the truth is we can't even know our own. Do you always know why you choose chocolate over vanilla? Why one day your passions sizzle and another you're a dead leaf in the wind? Can you number all the events and images that impress your heart and make it lean this way or that? Haven't you been surprised by the insincerity and even intrigue you've found in your heart?

But the heart is more than complicated, and unsearchable: it is "deceitful above all things" (verse 9). Every night Tom Brokaw tells us about shady politics and business scams. People finding loopholes in the law to use their sweat-earned money to build stately pleasure domes in Zanadu. But the sleaziest back-room Mafia deal can't equal the deceitfulness in your heart. The heart is "deceitful above all things."

Do you doubt it? Think how fickle you are. One day you're a sage, the next a clown. You can be open and cheery or reserved and gloomy, easy to get along with or a real crank, romantic or frosty. One day Jesus is all the world to you; the next, you love the world more than King Midas did.

And think of your inconsistencies. Your mind says tithing is right, and your will puts the money in the plate—but all the while you wish God weren't so demanding. Or you know that secret communion with God is a feast for your soul, and you long for it—but you can't roll out of bed, or if you do, your mind zooms everywhere in the universe except to heaven. Or your mind knows that lust is evil and dangerous, but you put yourself to sleep at night imagining a weekend in Monterey with the hunk two apartments down.

The Hidden Horrors: This unsearchable, deceitful heart is where sin hides. The Preacher said, "The hearts of men, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live" (Ecclesiastes 9:3). Jesus called the heart the fountain of sin (Matthew 15:19), and a treasure chest where we sock away evil (Luke 6:45). Put all this together and you have a scene no director could stage...

No Surrender: Never think for a minute that the war against sin is over in this life. There isn't even a cease-fire. Many generals have been surprised because they were careless after a victory. Countless believers have been ambushed on the heels of a giant step forward in faith. David, for example, lived a long life of devotion and duty to God, and saw mercy on mercy from God's hands; then sin tiptoed up behind him in the dark and stabbed him in the back.

If you violently war against your flesh, you'll win ground. It will grow weak, and you'll grow in grace into the image of Christ. Still the work has to be endless as long as we're in this world. If you cut the flesh any slack, you'll watch it regroup and revive. You may even end up worse off than you were before (compare Luke 11:24-26).

—From *The Enemy Within*, Kris Lundgaard (1998)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Touchton Going Away Party | Meeting tonight, October 24, 5:30-7pm at the Bishop's house (21 Green St.) for a potluck sendoff for the Touchton Family. Check the weekly email for a link to sign up to bring a dish, drink or side.

Men's Breakfast | Wednesdays at 7am, Pop's Restaurant (134 Old Gate Ln.). 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.

Thursday 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.) every Sunday in October and November except **10/31** and **11/14** when we will meet at the Fowler Memorial Building (parking at 1 Shipyard Ln.).

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | Men's starts Nov. 6th, 9-10:30am. Women's reconvenes Nov. 20th, 9-10:30am. RSVP for either event to info@cpcmilford.org.

Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship | 3rd Fridays, rotating months.

Contact us

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