



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

November 7, 2021
25th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Husband of the Church

Before the face of Christ
Believers in Jesus are all feminine—
Together, we are the Bride he loves,
The delight of his heart.
Blessed be our Lord Jesus For his Husband-love,
His faithfulness to us; even in our unfaithfulness to him.
Praise him for his sacrificing love;
He went to death for the sake of his unfaithful Bride.
Praise him for his high purposes for us—
He who, even now, is making us a pure Lover
To live with him in tenderness forever.
Grant us, O Lord,
To see more clearly into your love,
For then we shall love you more deeply,
And find our delight in bringing you pleasure.
Alleluia!

.....

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering 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

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

Call to Worship

Hosea 2:16–20:

“And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me **‘My Husband,’** and no longer will you call me **‘My Baal.’** [The LORD says:]

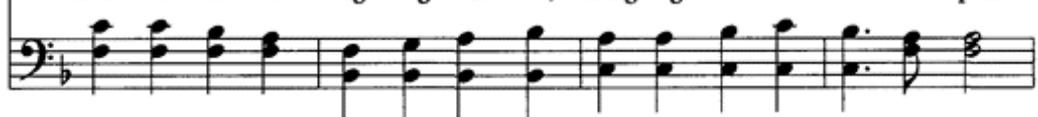
For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more. And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground.



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, o - pening to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!
love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bring - ing all with - in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ, our Broth - er — all who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!
sing - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in Thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.
joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward, in the tri - umph song of life.



Individual Confession

Absolution Micah 7:18–19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression
for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.
He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.
You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Thanksgiving Hymn Thou Lovely Source Of True Delight

Thou lovely source of true delight
Whom I unseen adore
Unveil Thy beauties to my sight
That I might love Thee more
Oh that I might love Thee more

Thy glory o'er creation shines
But in Thy sacred Word
I read in fairer brighter lines
My bleeding dying Lord
See my bleeding dying Lord

'Tis here whene'er my comforts droop
And sin and sorrow rise
Thy love with cheering beams of hope
My fainting heart supplies
Oh my fainting heart's supplied

But ah too soon the pleasing scene
Is clouded o'er with pain
My gloomy fears rise dark between
And I again complain
Oh and I again complain

Jesus my Lord my life my light
Oh come with blissful ray
Break radiant through the shades of night
And chase my fears away
Won't You chase my fears away

Then shall my soul with rapture trace
The wonders of Thy love
But the full glories of Thy face
Are only known above
They are only known above

New Testament Lesson Matthew 25:1–13

Peace of Christ

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

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him, all creatures here below!
Praise Him above, you heavenly host! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen!

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

Sermon Text Micah

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

Sermon Collateral Damage | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn We are God's People

— 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/

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, Mold me, fill me, Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great

Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
 known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
 bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
 weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for

Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
 to re - turn the gift of love once given: O let us share each
 fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
 on its own each em - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the

par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand to hand.
 joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es Heaven.
 fights to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
 flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

Confession of Faith Westminster Larger Catechism (1647), Question 66

What is that union which the elect have with Christ?

The union which the elect have with Christ is the work of God's grace, whereby they are spiritually and mystically, yet really and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband; which is done in their effectual calling.

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 Love Of Christ Is Rich And Free (Vs 1-2)

The love of Christ is rich and free
Fixed on His own eternally
Nor earth nor hell can it remove
Long as He lives His own He'll love

His loving heart engaged to be
Their everlasting surety
'Twas love that took their cause in hand
And love maintains it to the end

Chorus

Love cannot from its post withdraw
Nor death nor hell nor sin nor law
Can turn the surety's heart away
He'll love His own to endless day

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 Love Of Christ Is Rich And Free (Vs 3-4)

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood
And love will bring them safe to God
Love calls them all from death to life
And love will finish all their strife

At death beyond the grave He'll love
In endless bliss His own shall prove
The blazing glory of that love
Which never could from them remove
Which never could from them remove

Chorus

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.

Micah

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

MICAH
MORESHETH
JOTHAM
AHAZ
HEZEKIAH
EARTH
WAX
HEAP
VINEYARDS
WAGES
FIRE
LAMENT
OSTRICHES
CONQUEROR
EAGLE

REFLECTION

Bride and Groom

That which is impossible for you to accomplish by trying to fulfill all the works of the law—many and useless as they all are—you will accomplish quickly and easily through faith. God our Father has made all things depend on faith so that whoever has faith will have everything, and whoever does not have faith will have nothing. “For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all,” as it is stated in Romans 11:32. Thus the promises of God give what the commandments of God demand and fulfill what the law prescribes so that all things may be God’s alone, both the commandments and the fulfilling of the commandments. He alone commands, he alone fulfills...

[Another] benefit of faith is that it unites the soul with Christ as a bride is united with her bridegroom. By this mystery, as the Apostle teaches, Christ and the soul become one flesh [Ephesians 5:31-32]. And if they are one flesh and there is between them a true marriage—indeed the most perfect of all marriages, since human marriages are but poor examples of this one true marriage—it follows that everything they have they hold in common, the good as well as the evil. Accordingly the believing soul can boast of and glory in whatever Christ has as though it were its own, and whatever the soul has Christ claims as his own. Let us compare these and we shall see inestimable benefits. Christ is full of grace, life, and salvation. The soul is full of sins, death and damnation. Now let faith come between them and sins, death, and damnation will be Christ’s, while grace, life and salvation will be the soul’s; for if Christ is a bridegroom, he must take upon himself the things which are his bride’s and bestow upon her the things that are his. If he gives her his body and very self, how shall he not give her all that is his? And if he takes the body of the bride, how shall he not take all that is hers?....

Who then can fully appreciate what this royal marriage means? Who can understand the riches of the glory of this grace? Here this rich and divine bride- groom Christ marries this poor, wicked harlot, redeems her from all her evil, and adorns her with all his goodness. Her sins cannot now destroy her, since they are laid upon Christ and swallowed up by him. And she has that righteousness in Christ, her husband, of which she may boast as of her own and which she can confidently display alongside her sins in the face of death and hell and say, “If I have sinned, yet my Christ, in whom I believe, has not sinned, and all his is mine and all mine is his,” as the bride in the Song of Solomon [2:16] says, My beloved is mine and I am his.

--Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian* (1520)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group | Meeting tonight, Nov. 7, at the Costen home for a picnic, Bible study and sharing time. 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 November except 11/14 when we will meet at the Fowler Memorial Building (parking at I Shipyard Ln.).

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | Women's meets Nov. 20th, 9-10:30am. Men's meets Dec. 4th, 9-10:30am. RSVP for either event to info@cpcmilford.org.

Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship | 3rd Fridays, rotating months. Women are meeting this month on Friday, Nov. 19th. Additional details are forthcoming.

Contact us

203.812.9928 | cpcmilford@gmail.com | facebook.com/CPCMilford | cpcmilford.org

CCLI License # 20088182



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD