



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

November 14, 2021  
26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### Celebrating the Freedom of the Christian in Christ

If the Son of God makes us free, we are free indeed!  
Free from the wrath of God;  
Free from the powers of Sin, Death, and the Devil;  
Free from having our consciences bound by other people:  
    by the church,  
    by the state,  
    by our neighbor or colleague,  
    by a child, a parent, a spouse.

Thanks be to God who rescued me,  
And sets me down in a broad place to live before him,  
With head held high!

.....

### TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

**Gathering Hymn**                      All Creatures of our God and King

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

**Call to Worship**                      Psalm 118:1-5

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
    **his love endures forever.**

Let Israel say:  
    **“His love endures forever.”**

Let the house of Aaron say:  
    **“His love endures forever.”**

Let those who fear the LORD say:  
    **“His love endures forever.”**

In my anguish, I cried to the LORD;  
    **and he answered by setting me free.**

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us  
 2 O rush-ing wind that art so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven a -  
 3 O flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to  
 4 All you who are of ten-der heart, for - giv-ing oth - ers, take your  
 5 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor-ship him in hum-ble-

Asus A  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G D Bm  $\frac{A}{C\#}$  D E A  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  D Bm7  $\frac{A7}{E}$  D  $\frac{G}{B}$

sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! O burn - ing sun with gold - en  
 long, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! O ris - ing morn in praise re -  
 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! O fire so mas - ter - ful and  
 part, sing prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! All you who pain and sor - row  
 ness, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the

Asus A  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{A7}{E}$  D  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{Dmaj7}{A}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{D}{A}$  G6  $\frac{A}{G}$   $\frac{D}{F\#}$  Em7  $\frac{D}{F\#}$

beam, and sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise him, O  
 joyce, O lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O praise him, O  
 bright, pro - vid - ing us with warmth and light, O praise him, O  
 bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O praise him, O  
 Son, and praise the Spir - it, Three in One, O praise him, O

G6 A7 Bm  $\frac{A}{C\#}$  D6 E A Bm7  $\frac{F\#m}{C\#}$  D Em  $\frac{A}{C\#}$   $\frac{B7}{D\#}$  Em  $\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{Em7}{G}$  A A7 D

praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

## Invocation

**Old Testament Lesson** Exodus 1:8-14

**Praise Hymn** King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting, Without hope without light  
Till from Heaven You came running, There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfil the law and prophets, To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory, To a cradle in the dirt

### **Chorus**

Praise the Father, Praise the Son, Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory, Majesty, Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming, And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died

### **Chorus**

And the morning that You rose, All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good, For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs, And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come, To the Father are restored

### **Chorus**

And the Church of Christ was born, Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old, Shall not kneel shall not faint  
By His blood and in His Name, In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ, Who has resurrected me

### **Chorus**

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

## **Confession of Sin**                      Based on Romans 1:18–23

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

**For what can be known about God is plain to us, because God has shown it to us.**

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

**So we are without excuse. For although we knew God, we did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but we became futile in our thinking, and our foolish hearts were darkened.**

Claiming to be wise, we became fools,

**and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.**

## **Individual Confession**

### **Absolution**                                      John 8:31-36:

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed”

### **Thanksgiving Hymn**                      And Can it Be That I Should Gain

### **New Testament Lesson**    I Corinthians 10:23-33

### **Peace of Christ**

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

### **The Gospel Song**

Holy God in love became, Perfect Man to bear my blame  
On the cross He took my sin, By His death I live again

1. And can it be that I should gain an in - r'est in the Sav - ior's blood?  
 2. 'Tis mys - tery all, th' Im - mor - tal dies: who can ex - plore this strange de - sign?  
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so in - fi - nite his grace!),  
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in sin and na - ture's night;

1. Died he for me, who caused his pain — for me, who him to death pur - sued?  
 2. In vain the first - born ser - aph tries to sound the depths of love di - vine.  
 3. emp - tied him - self of all but love, and bled for Ad - am's help - less race.  
 4. thine eye dif - fused a quick - 'ning ray; I woke, the dun - geon filled with light!

1. A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me?  
 2. 'Tis mer - cy all! Let earth a - dore, let an - gel minds en - quire no more.  
 3. 'Tis mer - cy all! im - mense and free! for, O my God, it found out me.  
 4. My chains fell off; my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and fol - lowed thee.

*Refrain*

A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me.  
 A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord,

5. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
 Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
 bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

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

**Sermon Text**

Selections from Nahum

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

A Chap of One Idea, or, Nineveh will get theirs... | Pastor Curran Bishop

**Response Hymn**

Lion and the Lamb

He's coming on the clouds  
Kings and kingdoms will bow down  
And every chain will break  
As broken hearts declare His praise  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

**Chorus**

Our God is the Lion  
The Lion of Judah  
He's roaring with power  
And fighting our battles  
And every knee will bow before Him  
Our God is the Lamb  
The Lamb that was slain  
For the sins of the world  
His blood breaks the chains  
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb  
Every knee will bow before Him

So open up the gates  
Make way before the King of kings  
The God who comes to save  
Is here to set the captives free  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

**Chorus**

Who can stop the Lord Almighty (repeat 2x)  
Who can stop the Lord

## Chorus

— 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**                      The Nicene Creed (AD 325)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

\*the universal Christian Church in all times and places

### **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**

What Wondrous Love is This (verses 1-2)

### **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**

What Wondrous Love is This (verse 3)

### **Benediction**

from Galatians 5:1 & 6:18

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

♯ Dm                  Am   C   Em   Dm   C   Dm   Dm<sup>7</sup>   C ♯ F

1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what  
 2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to  
 3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

C   Bm   Am   G   Am   G   C   Dm   C   F   C   F   C

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is  
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm

Dm                  C   Am   Bm<sup>7</sup>   C   Dm                  Am   Em   Dm   C

this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my  
 Lamb, who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

Dm                  Dm<sup>7</sup>   C ♯ F   C   Bm   Am   G   Am   G   C   Dm   ♯

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!  
 on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

## REFLECTION

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### **Free to Be One of a Kind—Before God**

*A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.*

*A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.*

Martin Luther wrote those words and his tract defending them, *The Freedom of a Christian*, in 1520, three years after posting the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther not only rediscovered the Bible's teaching that grace is a sheer gift from God; he also grasped that it is the gospel which guarantees the freedom of the individual person: Christ rescued me not only from the wrath of God and the compulsion of sin, but also from the opinions and judgments of other people. In the cross I have been freed to live for God. I do not do things just because others do them; Christ frees me from a mindless or fearful conformity. I am trying to be myself before my Lord; trying to use responsibly the freedom he gives to me, personally; trying to be "one of a kind," to borrow the title of the Sunday School study our middle school kids once did.

Most of us know that all this is true, that not the mere opinions of fellow human beings but only the will of almighty God can bind our conscience. But doesn't most of the emphasis usually go on the second half of Luther's paradox, that I am to serve others? We're constantly told we need to make sacrifices for others and give, give, give. And this is what God commands us to be and do! But you can give as a groveling, resentful slave of others, or as a cheerful lord, knowing that Christ has freed you from others' whims and prejudices; from their judgments about what you should be and do....

To be sure, [Paul, in I Corinthians 10:29-30] balances this freedom with the duty to love. Luther didn't think up his paradox of the freedom and the servitude of the Christian. He got it from Paul. But the freedom side is really there and we must learn to trust it....

This is a rich freedom and we should enjoy it more than we do. When we think of standing before the Lord now to make those decisions which will make our life a glorious "one of a kind" life as his redeemed child or family, it should delight us! As someone once reminded me: "In the day of judgment God won't say to me, 'Why weren't you Moses?' He will say to me, 'Why weren't you Ron Lutjens?'"

– Ron Lutjens, PCA pastor in St. Louis, MO

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** | Meeting tonight, Nov. 14, at the Alburgers for a “family meal” and togetherness. 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.) for the rest of November.

**Men's & Women's Bible Studies** | Women's meets Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, 9-10:30am. Men's meets Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 9-10:30am. RSVP for either event to [info@cpcmilford.org](mailto:info@cpcmilford.org).

**Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship** | 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, rotating months. Women are meeting this month on Friday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at Abby's for dessert and craft time.

### Contact us

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