



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

December 19, 2021
4th Sunday of Advent

REFLECTION

Celebrating Our Messiah Jesus: Root of Jesse

Marry's Song

Blue homespun and the bend of my breast
keep warm this small hot naked star
fallen to my arms. (Rest...
you who have had so far
to come). Now nearness satisfies
the body of God sweetly. Quiet he lies
whose vigor hurled
a universe. He sleeps
whose eyelids have not closed before.
His breath (so slight it seems
no breath at all) once ruffled the dark deeps
to sprout a world.
Charmed by doves voices, the whisper of straw,
he dreams,
hearing no music from his other spheres.
Breath, mouth, ears, eyes
he is curtailed
who overflowed all skies,
all years.
Older than eternity, now he
is new. Now native to earth as I am, nailed
to my poor planet, caught that I might be free,
blind in my womb to know my darkness ended,
brought to this birth
for me to be new-born,
and for him to see me mended
I must see him torn.

—*Luci Shaw*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the
 2. A help-er just he comes to thee, his char-iot
 3. O blest the land, the cit-y blest, where Christ the
 4. Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; make it a

King of glo-ry waits; the King of kings is
 is hu-mil-i-ty, his king-ly crown is
 Rul-er is con-fessed! O hap-py hearts and
 tem-ple, set a-part from earth-ly use for

draw-ing near, the Sav-ior of the world is here.
 ho-li-ness, his sheep-ter, pi-ty in dis-tress.
 hap-py homes to whom this King in tri-umph comes!
 heav'n's em-ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
 my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
 Let me thy inner presence feel;
 thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
 Let new and nobler life begin!
 Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
 until the glorious crown be won.

Gathering Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

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

Call to Worship

Romans 15:8-13:

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised... in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”

And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

And again Isaiah says, **“The root of Jesse will come,**

even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 11:1-12

Praise Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angel Sings

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

Confession of Sin

Jesus said: “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

Forgive us our lukewarm love and our disobedience.

Jesus said: “You may ask for anything in my name.”

Forgive us for trying to solve our problems without You.

Jesus said: “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Forgive us for living in fear, anxiety, and worry rather than trusting you.

Jesus said: “If you remain in me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit.”

Forgive us for our spiritually barren lives and lack of zeal for your kingdom.

Jesus said: “Surely I am with you always.”

Forgive us for doubting your loving presence and saving help.

Individual Confession

f 7

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

f REFRAIN 7

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

Absolution Jeremiah 23:5–6

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Thanksgiving Hymn What Child Is This, Who Laid to Rest

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1–20

Peace of Christ

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

Sanctus

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord, God of Hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory!
Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest.

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

Sermon Text Jeremiah 23:1-4, 33:12, 14-17a, 22a, 24-26

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

Sermon The Messiah in Jeremiah | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Huron Carol

— 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/

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Em C Am⁶ Em

Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled,
 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the Ten - der Babe was found,
 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair,
 O child - ren of the for - est free, O sons of Man - i - tou,

Em C Am⁶ Em

that migh - ty Gi - tchi Ma - ni - tou sent an - gel choirs in - stead;
 A rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en wrapp'd His beau - ty round;
 As was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there.
 The Ho - ly Child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you.

Em Am Bm Em C Am⁶ Bm

Be - fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan-d'ring hun - ters heard the hymn:
 But as the hun - ter braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:
 The chiefs from far be - fore Him knelt with gifts of fox and beav - er pelt.
 Come kneel be - fore the ra - diant Boy who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.

13 Em Bm Em Bm Em Bm Em

Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is born, In ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide

O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
 Come down, come down with mighty stride.
 Unbar the gates, the doors break down;
 Unbar the way to heaven's crown.

Confession of Faith

PCA Book of Church Order, Preface

Jesus Christ, upon whose shoulders the government rests, whose name is called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace; of the increase of whose government and peace there shall be no end; who sits upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom to order it and to establish it with judgment and justice from henceforth, even forever; having all power given unto Him in heaven and in earth by the Father, who raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand,

far above all principalities and powers, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come, and has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all; He, being ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things, received gifts for His Church, and gave all offices necessary for the edification of His Church and the perfecting of His saints. ...

Christ, as King, has given to His Church officers, oracles and ordinances; and especially has He ordained therein His system of doctrine, government, discipline and worship, all of which are either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary inference may be deduced therefrom; and to which things He commands that nothing be added, and that from them naught be taken away.

Since the ascension of Jesus Christ to heaven, He is present with the Church by His Word and Spirit, and the benefits of all His offices are effectually applied by the Holy Ghost.

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 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (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 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Verses 3-4)

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to
in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to
from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of
as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Benediction From I Timothy 6:13-16, 22:

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Grace be with you. Amen.

REFLECTION

*O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.*

Hope from the Stump of Jesse

Healing is for sick people and hope is for people who experience hopelessness. It is only when you know your own brokenness and the brokenness of those around you, when the cries of the hungry reach your ears, when you know the depths of fear that nuclear holocaust strikes the heart and experience empathetically the anguish of victims of war, when you know that we are powerless to heal ourselves—only then are you ready to hear God's word of advent in Isaiah 11.

Isaiah 11 is not for people who self-confidently believe that progress is inevitable if only we have the right amount of rational insight, technological development, economic growth and a few sessions with the psychotherapist. That kind of secular advent has not brought renewed blessing, but further curse.

No, Isaiah brings good news to people who have no such self-confidence. His word of hope is to a people who have been reduced to but a stump of their former selves. Indeed, the images of destruction, fire and war that Isaiah uses conjure up pictures not unlike the aftermath of the nuclear attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima—a once proud people and flourishing culture reduced to stubble.

But from that dried up stump a shoot springs forth, a new growth out of the old roots and it will bear fruit. A second David will arise from what appears to be a lost cause—the cut-down, fire-charred stump of Jesse. That new beginning, in God's redemptive plan for creation, is what Christians celebrate at advent because advent is a celebration of and an earnest waiting for the One who has come and is still to come—the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Advent is not a season one progresses through naturally, like winter or summer. It is a time you enter into only by faith—faith that the One who was promised here in Isaiah—the One upon whom the Spirit has rested; the One who is Filled with wisdom and understanding, counsel and strength; the One who is full of the knowledge of the Lord and simply delights in the fear of the Lord—that One has come!! **“The Word became flesh... and we beheld his glory, full of grace and truth.”**

— Brian Walsh (1984)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group | Meet at the Bishops house for some neighborhood caroling at 6pm. Warm drinks and treats to follow.

Men's Breakfast | Wednesdays at 7am, Pop's Restaurant (134 Old Gate Ln.). A space for community, important questions, and understanding. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

Thursday Night Prayer Meeting | 7-7:50pm. Join us for a short prayer, scripture liturgy, and to pray for each other. Zoom Meeting ID: 899 5618 6470 | Passcode: 355978

Sunday Worship | We'll meet at the Fowler Building (parking at I Shipyard Ln.) Dec. 19th at 11am and will be back at the MAC (40 Railroad Ave.) for 10:30am on the 26th.

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | Men's and Women's studies will meet again in January. Email questions for either study to info@cpcmilford.org.

Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship | Generally 3rd Fridays, rotating months. The men will meet next in January. RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org.

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Community Group Caroling	12/19, 6pm
Christmas Eve Service	12/24, 6pm
Epiphany Celebration	1/6, 6pm

Contact us

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