



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

December 26, 2021
1st Sunday of Christmas

REFLECTION

Celebrating Our Messiah Jesus: His Naming and Circumcision

You are to give him the name, “Jesus.”
Praise be to the Lord for Gabriel’s announcement
that he who is born Messiah goes by the name,
“God saves.”

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
that name which is above every name
in rank and honor;
For no other name can be found under heaven and
among men that has the power to save us.
Come adore the Christ child this Christmastide;
He who lay in a manger as infant
now rules the universe as Lord.
Alleluia!

.....

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful

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

Call to Worship John 1:1-5, 9, 14 (responsive):

In the beginning was the Word, **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

In him was life, **and the life was the light of men.**

The light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

r 7

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be -
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

REFRAIN

born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
 in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

r 7

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Dm A Dm Bb Bb Dm A Dm

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may, for
 2. In Beth - le - hem in Ju - dah this bless - ed babe was born, and
 3. From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came, and
 4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind, and
 5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place, and

5 Dm A Dm Bb Bb Dm A D Gm F

Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior was born up - on this day, to save us all from
 laid with - in a man - ger up - on this bless - ed morn: for which his moth - er
 un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same, how that in Beth - le -
 left their flocks a - feed - ing in tem - pest, storm, and wind, and went to Beth - le -
 with true love and broth - er - hood each oth - er now em - brace; this ho - ly tide of

10 F7 F Dm C C *Refrain* Dm F F A7

Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 Ma - ry did noth - ing take in scorn.
 hem was born the Son of God by name. O tid - ings of com - fort and
 hem straight - way, the bless - ed babe to find.
 Christ - mas all oth - ers doth de - face.

15 Dm G7 C Dm F F/A F A7 Dm

joy, com - fort and joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 25:6-9

Praise Hymn God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

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

Confession of Sin John 1:9–11

“The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.”

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.

**We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.**

We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, **expecting little, and hoping for less.**

**Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness
of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Individual Confession

Absolution John 1:12–13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Thanksgiving Hymn It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:30-33, 2:21–32

Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King";
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened heav - en's door, and man is bless - ed ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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 31:31-37

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

Sermon The Messiah in Jeremiah | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Good Christian Men, Rejoice

— 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/

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 The Apostle's Creed (1st Century)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hell;

the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

*that is, the universal church

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

Angels We Have Heard on High (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.

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Coronation Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High (verse 3)

Benediction from Philippians 2:9–11, 4:23

God has highly exalted Jesus and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

REFLECTION

A Ship Comes Sailing Onwards

A ship comes sailing onwards, With a precious freight on board;
It bears the only Son of God, It bears the Eternal Word.
A precious freight it brings us, Glides gently on, yet fast;
Its sails are filled with Holy Love, The Spirit is its mast.
And now it's casting anchor, The ship has touched the land;
God's Word has taken flesh, the Son Among us men doth stand.
At Bethlehem, in the manger, He lies, a babe of days;
For us He gives Himself to death, O give Him thanks and praise.
Whoe'er would hope in gladness To kiss this Holy Child,
Must suffer many a pain and woe Patient like Him and mild;
Must die with Him to evil And rise to righteousness,
That so with Christ he too may share Eternal life and bliss.

— *John Tauler of Strassburg (1300-1361)*

Translated by Catherine Winkworth (1869)

Christmastide?

The early church fathers developed the church calendar as a means of directing the weekly worship of the Church through a broad selection of doctrinal topics. This is helpful because it allows us to be intentional in ensuring that we engage the complexity and diversity of what God has revealed to us about Himself. They also developed the calendar as a means of setting the rhythm of the seasonal lives of the people of God to be shaped around the gospel story, as opposed to the pagan and animistic seasonal rhythms available in their culture.

By the time of the Reformation, the medieval church had turned the calendar into a compulsory system the observation of which was a part of the system of earning salvation which the church erroneously taught. Responding to this, many of the reformers rejected many aspects of the church calendar.

Today, as the Church functions in a pluralistic society which more closely resembles the Roman Empire of the early church's context, we confront new problems. The sentimentalism which the Church often retreated into in the face of Modernism has led to the familiar "Hallmark® calendar" which much of our culture observes. We want to lean against this trend by using an older and more nuanced tool of the pre-modern church to orient our worship to God in all of His complexity and nuance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group | Will not meet tonight to allow for time with friends and family.

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 | Will be on break this week

Sunday Worship | We'll meet at the MAC (40 Railroad Ave.) at 10:30am on Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, and at the Fowler Building (parking at I Shipyard Ln.) on Jan 30.

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | Women will meet on Jan 8 and men will meet on Jan 22 from 9-10:30am. Email questions for either study to info@cpcmilford.org.

Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship | Generally 3rd Fridays, rotating months. The men will meet January 7 at 7:30pm. RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Epiphany Celebration

1/9, 6pm | Gather with us to celebrate Epiphany, also known as Twelfth Night. Additional details forthcoming!

Contact us

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