



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

January 30, 2022
4th Sunday after Epiphany

REFLECTION

Christ Our Brother, Made Dependent Like Us: Celebrating God's Gift of Finiteness

Born as a baby, utterly dependent on others' care,
God the Son became one of us.
Dependent on food and drink for his strength,
On money for his food and clothes,
On sleep for his energy,
On his immune system for his health,
On shelter for the protection of his body,
On human companionship in times of trouble,
Christ truly became one of us.

Hungry, tired, lonely—and, we may presume, sick at times—
Jesus endured all that we endure as physical, finite creatures.
But in becoming one of us, he sanctified our utter dependence.
So we celebrate our limitations, We rejoice in our finiteness,
For this is what God made us to be as creatures.
We know ourselves only when we know our needs;
We find the true glory of our humanness
Only when we willingly submit to our limits,
And entrust our fragile life to our infinite God and Father.
Blessed be his high and holy Name

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

Fairest Lord Jesus

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

Capo 1: ♮ (D) (Em) (A) (D) 7 (Bm) (B7) (Em) (A) (D)

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

(G) (D) (A7) (D) (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (B7) (Em)

Son of God and Son of Man! Thee will I cher - ish,
 robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 and all the twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,
 Son of God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,

(B7) (Em) (A7) (D) ♮ (Bm) (D7) (G) (D) (A7) (D) 7

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.
 praise, ad - o - ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine.

Call to Worship

Psalm 104:24, 27-31:

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

When you give it to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust

When you send forth your Spirit,

they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

may the LORD rejoice in his works!

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson String of Pearls on the Humanity of the Messiah
(2 Samuel 7:12; Micah 5:2a; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6a, 49:1-4)

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

O God our Father, we come humbly
to confess how feeble is our confidence
that you will fulfill your good purposes for us.

We are frail, and trouble snaps our faith like a twig.
Loss or sickness, or the thwarting of our plans,
is like a cry in our ear that we have no Father in heaven.
Forgive us we pray, for each time we have believed it.

O Lord may we remember that in your great power,
you exiled your Son for his protection,
and then called him out of Egypt for our salvation.
And as you ordered events then,
and rescued the infant Son of your love,
so the same hidden Providence has rescued us
again and again, in our own times of danger.

O Lord remind us, that until your good purposes for us are fulfilled,
we are immortal on the earth; and that even when we die
our spirit shall be in your presence,
waiting with unspeakable joy to follow Christ in his resurrection.

We renounce our unbelieving hearts and complaining spirits.
Hear our confession and cancel our guilt,
by the perfect life and sacrificial death
of him who was tempted to doubt your goodness,
but never gave in – Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Individual Confession

Absolution

I Corinthians 1:18, 26-31

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.... For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Thanksgiving Hymn

Arrival

Who is God that He would take our frame
The artisan inside the paint
Or breathe the very air His breath sustains
The architect inside the plan

Chorus

Oh come now hail His arrival, The God of creation
Royalty robed in the flesh He created
Jesus the Maker has made Himself known
All hail the infinite infant God

The One who had no start and knows no end
Became confined in time and tense
The everlasting God the Great I Am
In the mercy of a mother's hands

Chorus

Holy Word of God defined by name
The Author climbed inside the page
Knew his death would set us sinners free
He lived and died, for you and me

Chorus

The One who holds the stars, In the creases of His hands
Is the One who holds my heart, Like a mother once held Him
The One who knows what lies, Where space has run its course
Embraced a baby's mind, And now I can know my God

The monarch of the stars, The King above all kings
The ruler of my heart, And the Saviour for my sins
The One who sees what lies, In each and ev'ry soul
Embraced our finite eyes, And now we can see our God

Chorus

New Testament Lesson String of Pearls on the Humanity of Christ:
(Luke 2:39–40, 51–52; Matthew 4:1–2; John 4:5–6,
11:32–36; Luke 22:42, 44; 24:39–43; Hebrews 2:14)

Peace of Christ The peace of the Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Trinity Song

Holy Father Son and Spirit; Holy Communion Three in One
Come with Your peace with Your invitation; Bind us together in holy love
Holy Father Son and Spirit; Holy Communion Three in One

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

Sermon Text Joel 2

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

Sermon The Minor Prophets for the Church | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song

This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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Prayers of the People

Collection Text **MNA 1708** to **76959** and follow the prompts or visit give.pcamna.org/to/1708/

Celtic Alleluia

Confession of Faith from Westminster Confession of Faith, 8 § 4

The office of Mediator, the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake, which, that He might discharge, He was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it; endured most grievous torments immediately in His soul, and most painful sufferings in His body; was crucified, and died, was buried, and remained under the power of death, yet saw no corruption. On the third day He arose from the dead, with the same body in which He suffered, with which also He ascended into heaven, and there sits at the right hand of His Father, making intercession, and shall return, to judge men and angels, at the end of the world.

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 Abide with Me (Verses 1-3)

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.

1. A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide; the dark - ness
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; earth's joys grow
 3. I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour; what but thy
 4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless: ills have no
 5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes; shine through the

deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide: when oth - er help - ers fail, and
 dim, its glo - ries pass a - way; change and de - cay in all a -
 • grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r? Who like thy - self my guide and
 weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness. Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy
 gloom, and point me to the skies: heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain

com - forts flee, help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 round I see; O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 • stay can be? Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 vic - to - ry? I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 shad - ows flee: in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Coronation Hymn

Abide with Me (Verses 4-5)

Benediction

2 Peter 3:17-18

Take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

REFLECTION

For me, one scene in the Gospels brings together the "at home" and "not at home" nature of Jesus. A storm blew up on the Sea of Galilee, nearly capsizing the boat in which Jesus lay sleeping. He stood up and yelled into the wind and spray, "Quiet! Be still!" The disciples shrank back in terror. What kind of person could shout to the weather as if correcting an unruly child?

The display of power in the midst of a storm helped convince the disciples that Jesus was unlike any other man. Yet it also hints at the depths of Incarnation. "God is vulnerable," said the philosopher Jacques Maritain. Jesus had, after all, fallen asleep from sheer fatigue. Moreover, the Son of God was, but for this one instance of miracle, one of its victims: the creator of rain clouds was rained on, the maker of stars got hot and sweaty under the Palestine sun. Jesus subjected himself to natural laws even when, at some level, they went against his desires ("If it is possible, may this cup be taken from me"). He would live, and die, by the rules of earth.

—Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group | We'll meet tonight at Liz Morelli's house at 5:30pm for Bible study, food and community 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.). A space for community, important questions, and understanding. 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 meet at the Fowler Building (parking at I Shipyard Ln.) at 11:00am for the month of February.

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | One Saturday a month from 9-10:30am. February dates TBD. Email questions for either study to info@cpcmilford.org.

Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship | Generally 3rd Fridays, rotating months. RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org.

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