



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

April 3, 2022
5th Sunday of Lent

REFLECTION

Descent to the Cross: Before Abraham Was, I Am

In the burning bush God revealed himself to man as I AM WHO I AM.

Almighty, incomprehensible, supreme in majesty,
He who had no beginning is himself the Ground of all being

But in the fullness of time He reveals himself again;
he comes with a face, with a laugh, with a heart that cries,
“Do not be afraid. Yes, before Abraham was, I AM.
I am the inscrutable God. But I am humble in heart, and I am gentle.”

We thought we could make him who Is, to be nothing:
We crucified him, the Lord of glory. Yet God turned it to our good.
Bless him in the congregation of the forgiven,
the company of those who trust in Christ!

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

Lion of Judah

You're the Lion of Judah, the Lamb who was slain
You ascended to heaven and ever more will reign
At the end of the age when the earth You reclaim
You will gather the nations before You
And the eyes of all men will be fixed on the Lamb
Who was crucified
With wisdom and mercy and justice you'll reign
At Your Father's side

Chorus

And the angels will cry hail the Lamb
Who was slain for the world rule in pow'r
And the earth will reply You shall reign
As the King of all kings
And the Lord of all lords

There's a shield in our hand and a sword at our side
There's a fire in our spirits that cannot be denied
'Cause the Father has told us for these You have died
For the nations who gather before You
And the ears of all men need to hear of the Lamb who was crucified
Who descended to hell yet was raised up to reign at His Father's side

Chorus

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

Call to Worship

Hebrews 1:1–4, 10–12

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,
and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

they will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment, they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will have no end.

Invocation

1. The God of A-braham praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;
 2. The God of A-braham praise, At whose su - preme com - mand
 3. He by him-self hath sworn, I on his oath de - pend;
 4. The good - ly land I see, With peace and plen - ty blest,

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, And God of love:
 From earth I rise, and seek the joys At his right hand:
 I shall, on ea - gle's wings up - borne, To heav'n as - cend:
 A land of sa - cred lib - er - ty And end - less rest;

Je - ho - vah! Great I AM! By earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake, Its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r;
 I shall be - hold his face, I shall his pow'r a - dore,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, And oil and wine a - bound,

I bow and bless the sa - cred Name, For ev - er blest.
 And him my on - ly por - tion make, My Shield and Tower.
 And sing the won - ders of his grace For ev - er - more.
 And trees of life for ev - er grow, With mer - cy crowned. A - MEN.

5. There dwells the Lord our King,
 The Lord our Righteousness;
 Triumphant o'er the world and sin,
 The Prince of Peace
 On Zion's sacred height
 His kingdom still maintains,
 And glorious with his saints in light
 For ever reigns.

6. The whole triumphant host
 Give thanks to God on high;
 "Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"
 They ever cry:
 Hail, Abraham's God and mine!
 I join the heavenly lays;
 All might and majesty are thine,
 And endless praise.

OT Lesson Exodus 3:11–15
This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Praise Hymn The God of Abraham Praise

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

Confession of Sin

O exalted and mighty Father, quietly and humbly we come,
remembering that you oppose the proud,
and tear down those who exalt themselves.

We are guilty of conceit, of vanity, and of boasting,
of putting on airs of superiority, and adopting tones of condescension.
Our hearts have been stony, and proud.
And we have loved neither you nor others with the innocence of children.
We are quick to criticize and find fault,
but defensive and testy when criticized ourselves.
We have been smug or stingy with our possessions,
or protective of our status, or too hungry for praise.

Help us, for the burden of love you ask us to carry
is breaking our proud back, for only humility is strong enough to carry it.
Bend us, O Lord, under your mighty hand.
Bow our hearts, that we might know ourselves as we are,
and not as we imagine ourselves to be.

All this we confess, in the name of our humble Savior,
Even Jesus Christ. Amen.

Individual Confession

Absolution Isaiah 53:4–5
Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
 he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

Thanksgiving Hymn

Alas and Did My Savior Bleed

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Alas and Did My Savior Bleed'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system includes five verses of lyrics. The second system includes a final verse. Chord symbols are written above the treble staff.

Chord Symbols:
System 1: F# G, C/G G, G/D D7, G 7, D
System 2: G D7, Em G7, C G, D F# G, C G, G/D D7, G 7

Lyrics:
1. A - las! and did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my Sov - ereign die!
2. Was it for crimes that I had done he groaned up - on the tree!
3. Well might the sun in dark - ness hide, and shut his glo - ries in,
4. Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears;
5. But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay the debt of love I owe;

Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for such a worm as I!
A - maz - ing pit - y! Grace un - known! And love be - yond de - gree!
• when Christ, the might - y Mak - er, died for man the crea - ture's sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt mine eyes in tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way, 'tis all that I can do.

New Testament Lesson John 8:46-59

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

Mark 1:21-45

Sermon

Mark: The King and the Cross | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn

Isaiah 43

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you,
And the waves will not
Overcome you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name,
You are Mine.

Chorus

For I am the Lord your God (I am the Lord your God),
I am the Lord your God (I am)
The Holy One of Israel, Your Savior
(Repeat)

I am the Lord (do not fear) (Repeat 3x)

When you walk through the fire
You'll not be burned,
And the flames will not
Consume you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name,
You are Mine.

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/

Psalm 137

By the wa - ters, the wa - ters of Bab - y - lon,
we sat down and wept, and wept for Zi - on.
We re-mem - ber, we re-mem - ber, we re-mem - ber Zi - on.

Confession of Faith Colossians 1:15–20

Christians, what do you believe?

I believe that Jesus Christ our Lord is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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

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
He knew his death would set us sinners free
He lived and died, for you and me

Chorus

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

Arrival

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

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

Benediction

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all... so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Amen.

HOLY WEEK/ EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Worship | 4/10, 10:30am, Milford Arts Council

Maundy Thursday Liturgical Meal | 4/14, 6pm, Bishop & Alburger houses

Good Friday Worship Service | 4/15, 12pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Milford

Easter Sunday | 4/17:

- * **Sunrise Worship Service** | 6:30am, Wildermere Beach Church
- * **Congregational Breakfast** | 8:30am, Milford Arts Council
- * **Easter Egg Hunt** | 9am, Milford Arts Council
- * **Square Dancing** | 9:30am, Milford Arts Council
- * **Worship Service** | 10:30am, Milford Arts Council

REFLECTION

The One God-Man

Looking at Jesus' life primarily "from below," I have not stressed such concepts as preexistence and divine essence and dual nature, which take up so much space in theology books. It required five centuries for the church to work out the details of Jesus' divinity/humanity and I have deliberately stayed close to the viewpoint presented by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, not the interpretive screen provided by the rest of the New Testament and formalized by the [later church] councils of Nicea and Chalcedon.

Even so, the Gospels themselves present the mystery of Jesus' dual identity. How did this Galilean Jew with a family and hometown come to be worshiped as "Very God of Very God"? Simple: Read the Gospels, especially John. Jesus accepted Peter's prostrate worship. To a lame man and an adulterous woman and many others he said commandingly, "I forgive your sins." To Jerusalem he remarked, "I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers," as if he was not a rabbi standing before them but the sovereign God of history. When challenged, Jesus answered bluntly, "I and the Father are one." "Before Abraham was born, I am" he said on another occasion, uttering the sacred Hebrew word for God in case they missed the point. Devout Jews did not miss the point; several times they picked up stones to punish him for blasphemy.

Jesus' audacious claims about himself pose what may be the central problem of all history, the dividing point between Christianity and other religions. Although Muslims and, increasingly, Jews respect Jesus as a great teacher and prophet, no Muslim can imagine Muhammed claiming to be Allah any more than a Jew can imagine Moses claiming to be Yahweh. Likewise, Hindus believe in many incarnations but not one Incarnation, while Buddhists have no categories in which to conceive of a sovereign God becoming a human being.

Could Jesus' disciples have back-filled his teaching to include such brazen claims as part of their conspiracy to launch a new religion? Unlikely. The disciples, as we have seen, were inept conspirators, and in fact the Gospels portray them as resistant to the very idea of Jesus' divinity. Every disciple, after all, belonged to the most fiercely monotheistic race on earth. As late as Jesus' last night with them, after they had heard all the claims and seen all the miracles, one of them asked the Teacher, "Show us the Father." Still they could not grasp it. Jesus was never clearer in his response: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." Jesus never temporized or waffled about his identity. He was either the Son of God sent to save the world or an impostor deserving of crucifixion. The people of his day understood the choice precisely.

—Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew* (1995)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group | Meeting tonight at 5:30 at Liz's house for a community meal. Signup to bring a dish, drink or side on the link in the weekly email.

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, coworkers and neighbors.

Thursday Night Prayer Meeting | 7-7:50pm. 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 Milford Arts Council (40 Railroad Ave) at 10:30am through Easter (April 17).

Holy Week / Easter Schedule | see page 10 above.

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | Women meet next on Saturday 4/23, men on 5/14, 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 women will meet April 8th. Additional details TBD. RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org.

Contact us

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

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