



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

September 6, 2020  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### Celebrating the Glory of Jesus Christ in the Creation of the World

At the name of Jesus,  
Every knee shall bow.  
Every tongue confess Him,  
King of glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure,  
We should call Him Lord.  
Who from the beginning,  
Was the mighty Word.

At His voice creation,  
Sprang at once to sight.  
All the angel faces,  
All the hosts of light.  
Thrones and dominations,  
Stars upon their way.  
All the heavenly orders,  
In their great array.

— Caroline Noel (1870)

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### FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

**Gathering Hymn**    Psalm 104 (versus 1-8)

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

**Call to Worship**    Psalms 19:1-4a

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
    **and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.**  
Day to day pours out speech,  
    **and night to night reveals knowledge.**  
There is no speech, nor are there words,  
    whose voice is not heard.  
Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,  
    **and their words to the end of the world.**

Invocation

**Old Testament Lesson**    Psalm 148

**Praise Hymn**            For the Beauty of the Earth



1. <sup>1</sup>My soul, bless the LORD! LORD God, You are great!  
 2. <sup>3</sup>The beams of Your courts in wa - ters You laid;  
 3. <sup>5</sup>You set up the earth on foun - da - tions sure,  
 4. <sup>7</sup>But at Your re - buke the high wa - ters fled;



With hon - or ar - rayed, ma - jes - tic in state,  
 On wings of the wind Your path - way You made.  
 That al - ways it should un - shak - en en - dure.  
 Your thun - der they heard and fast a - way sped.



- <sup>2</sup>You cov - er Your - self with a gar - ment of light  
<sup>4</sup>The clouds are Your char - iot; the winds do Your will;  
<sup>6</sup>The deep like a gar - ment a - bout it You cast;  
<sup>8</sup>The moun - tains a - rose, and the val - leys sank low;



And stretch out the sky as a cur - tain by night.  
 The flames and the light - nings Your pleas - ure ful - fil.  
 The wa - ters stood high; o - ver moun - tains they passed.  
 The place You ap - point - ed for them now they know.





1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night;  
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child;  
 4. For Thy church that ev - er - more lifts her ho - ly hands a - bove,



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, pleas - ures pure and un - de - filed:  
 of - f'ring up on ev - 'ry shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love:



Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.



5. For the joy of ear and eye,  
 for the heart and mind's delight,  
 for the mystic harmony  
 linking sense and sound and sight:  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

6. For Thyself, best gift divine,  
 to our world so freely giv'n;  
 for that great, great love of Thine,  
 peace on earth and joy in heav'n:  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

## Confession of Sin

O Father in heaven,

**You have given us rich powers of thought and skill.**

Made in your image, we write, and weld, and program,  
and keep house, and build, and sing, and act, and trade,  
and raise families, and research, and sculpt, and sell.

We work and play in your great world,  
and enjoy the pleasures of created life.

**But we humbly confess our pride, for we are ever prone  
to worship the work of our hands and heads.**

**yet you alone are Lord;  
you alone satisfy the ache in our soul;  
you alone are worthy of worship.**

Hear us as we confess our failures:

**When we squander our talents;**

**When we refuse to explore our abilities and gifts  
our fear or laziness;**

**When we throw ourselves into one great commission you gave us—  
to fill the earth and subdue it—but then lose sight of your Kingdom,  
which in Christ's coming broke into the world;**

**When we are condescending towards others whose tastes and cultural  
sensibilities we cannot endure**

**When we despise those around us caught up in every  
idolatry, rather than pray for them and love them;**

**When we lose hope that you will use our consecrated talents to make a  
difference somewhere—**

O Lord, when we fail in our cultural calling,

**remember the bitter sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and forgive our pride, forgive our sloth,  
forgive our diluted obediences;**

For Christ's sake cover us, **O great God of mercy. Amen.**

Individual Confession

**Absolution**

Colossians 1:16–20

For 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.

## **Thanksgiving Hymn**      O Day of Rest and Gladness

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness, Most beautiful, most bright:  
On Thee, the high and lowly, Through ages joined in tune,  
Sing holy, holy, holy, To the great God Triune.

On Thee, at the creation, The light first had its birth;  
On Thee, for our salvation, Christ rose from depths of earth;  
On Thee, our Lord, victorious, The Spirit sent from heaven,  
And thus on Thee, most glorious, A triple light was given.

Thou art a port protected From storms that round us rise;  
A garden intersected With streams of paradise;  
Thou art a cooling fountain In life's dry dreary sand;  
From Thee, like Pisgah's mountain, We view our promised land.

Today on weary nations The heavenly manna falls;  
To holy convocations The silver trumpet calls,  
Where gospel light is glowing With pure and radiant beams,  
And living water flowing, With soul-refreshing streams.

New graces ever gaining From this, our day of rest,  
We reach the rest remaining To spirits of the blessed.  
To Holy Ghost be praises, To Father, and to Son;  
The church her voice upraises To Thee, blessed Three in One.

**New Testament Lesson**    John 1:1–5, Colossians 1:15–17, Hebrews 1:1–3

## 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

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

## New Testament

John 1:1-5, 13:34-35, 14:9b-17, 17:20-24

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

Christ Pres Culture, 2: Christ as King;  
Being and Community | Pastor Curran Bishop

## Response Hymn    **Is He Worthy?**

Do you feel the world is broken? - **We do**

Do you feel the shadows deepen? - **We do**

But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through?

**We do**

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? - **We do**

Is all creation groaning? - **It is**

Is a new creation coming? - **It is**

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? - **It is**

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? - **It is**

**Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole**

**Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll**

**The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave**

**He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave**

**Is He worthy, Is He worthy**  
**Of all blessing and honor and glory**  
Is He worthy of this? - **He is**

Does the Father truly love us? - **He does**  
Does the Spirit move among us? - **He does**  
And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? - **He does**  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? - **He does**

**Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole**  
**Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll**  
**The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave**  
**He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave**  
**From ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue**  
**He has made us a kingdom and priests**  
**To God to reign with the Son**  
**Is He worthy, Is He worthy**  
**Of all blessing and honor and glory**  
**Is He worthy, Is He worthy**  
Is He worthy of this? - **He is**

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**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/)

**Confession of Faith**

The Nicene Creed, Masai Version

Christians, what do you believe?

**We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created man and wanted man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know him in the light. God promised in the book of his word, the Bible, that he would save the world and all nations and tribes.**

**We believe that God made good his promise by sending his son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing that the meaning of religion is God's love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He was buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from that grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.**

**We believe that all His people's sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love, and share the bread together in love, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen."**

### **Communion in Christ Jesus**

*All Christians are invited to join us to receive Christ's presence of bread and wine. During this time of social distancing we offer for our pastor to come and bless your partaking of elements you provide to preserve the corporate-presence of Christ pictured in the supper as best we can. If you've been part of our streaming service please text Curran (203-812-9928) to set up a time he can meet you (from a distance) to celebrate communion.*

**Alleluia** Celtic Alleluia

### **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**

**God of Everlasting Glory**

## **Benediction**      I Timothy 6:11-16

As for you, O people of God, ... Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession... I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus... to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ...—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. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** – Resumes tonight, September 6, 5:30-7pm at the Bishops (21 Green St., Milford, 06460). Bring a picnic dinner for some time fellowshiping together as we kick off a new year of community group on mission together.

### **Thursday Night Prayer Meeting** – 7-7:50pm

In the midst of pandemic, financial crisis and social isolation we need each other, and we need God. Please join us as we follow a short prayer and scripture liturgy, pray for each other, and have some “digital fellowship” while staying home and staying safe.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/823911975>      Meeting ID: 823 911 975

### **Exploring Church Membership** – Thursdays, 8-9pm

We take five vows in joining a Presbyterian church—this class explores those vows, as well as some distinctives we strive to embody as a church.

### **Worship Location Schedule**

- August 30, Sept 6, 20, 27: [1 Shipyard Ln., Milford, CT 06460 \(Fowler Pavilion\)](#)
- Sept. 13: [165 Forest Rd, Milford, CT 06461](#)

### **Contact us**

203.812.9928 or [curran.bishop@cpcmilford.org](mailto:curran.bishop@cpcmilford.org); find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/CPCMilford](https://facebook.com/CPCMilford) or visit us online at [cpcmilford.org](http://cpcmilford.org)

1. God of ev - er - last - ing glo - ry, fill - ing earth and sky,  
 2. As we push man's fron - tiers for - ward in - to out - er space,  
 3. In the o - pen book of na - ture faith re - mains un - moved—  
 4. Through the course of hu - man his - t'ry has your pur - pose run,

ev - ery - where your won - ders o - pen to our search - ing eye:  
 reach - ing for the stars and plan - ets, still your hand we trace;  
 pat - terns of the Mas - ter Build - er by each fact are proved;  
 and in sub - stance have we seen you in your glo - rious Son:

in our tel - e - scop - ic prob - ing— light - years from our world,  
 in the lab - 'ra - to - ry's si - lence, where your se - crets hide,  
 so with rev - 'rent hearts we pon - der all the grand de - sign  
 he it was who came to save us and our hopes to raise—

in the a - tom's theo - ried struc - ture sci - ence has un - furled.  
 there the mar - vels of cre - a - tion are for us sup - plied.  
 of the u - ni - verse a - round us, wrought by hands di - vine.  
 God of ev - er - last - ing glo - ry, your great name we praise!

## REFLECTION

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### Christ and Creation

The list of passages which teach it is impressive:

*The Son...by whom all things were created...(Col. 1:16) There is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came...(1 Cor. 8:6) God has spoken to us by his Son... through whom he made the universe (Heb. 1:2). In the beginning was the Word... through him all things were made... (John 1:1 & 3).*

Christ the Son, my Savior, was God's agent in creating the universe. The same one who, for my sake, became a human being; the one who ate and slept and cried tears.

Not a mere force but a person—with a heart and a mind—brought matter out of nothing. Power. Mysterious power. Mesmerizing power. How did he do it? How?

And what does it mean that the Son was the Father's "agent," as we would say today; that the cosmos was made by the Father but through the Son? What awesome, inscrutable distinctions you teach me, O my God! I cannot plumb the depths of them.

But there is more to wonder at, to drive me to my knees: *All things were created by him and for him.* (Col. 1:16)

You were not only the divine Agent in the creation of molecules and galaxies, O Jesus; you are the supreme Goal of all that is. Everything was made not just through you but for you. All that exists, exists for you. For you. Not for the world but for you; not for the United States, but for you; not for me but for you. You have become the heir of all things. I renounce the figurine I have made of you in my smallness, and bow before you as before the ineffable, unimaginable, unapproachable God.

– Ron Lutjens



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