



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

November 1, 2020
23rd Sunday of Pentecost: All Saints Day

REFLECTION

Celebrating Christ's Victory over Death for the Saints

This is the nature of shadow and gloom;
In the gleaming of glory there can be no room.
What force is resourced by the echoing black?
When the brightness ignites can the shadow push back?
These 'powers' of darkness, if such can be called,
Are banished by brilliance, by blazing enthralled.
So the Bible begins with this fore-resolved fight;
For a moment the darkness.... then "Let there be Light!"
First grief in the gloom, then joy from the East.
First valley of shadow, then mountaintop feast.
First wait for Messiah, then long-promised Dawn.
First desolate Friday and then Easter Morn.
The armies of darkness when doing their worst,
Can never extinguish this Dazzling Sunburst.

– Glen Scrivener

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST: ALL SAINTS DAY

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn For All the Saints

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

Call to Worship I Corinthians 15:50–57

I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,
2. Thou wast their Rock, their For - tress and their Might;
3. O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
4. And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
5. But then there breaks a still more glo - rious day:
6. From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast,

who Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed;
Thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine;
steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song,
the saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray;
through gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,

Thy name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true Light.
yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
and hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
the King of glo - ry pas - ses on His way.
in praise of Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: **“Death is swallowed up in victory.”** **“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”**

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Invocation

Praise Hymn Death Where is Your Sting?

For God so loved the world He gave His Son
To bear the weight of sin He bled for us
From Heaven's highest place He took the fall
And there was just one life laid down for all

Chorus

Death where is your sting
Grave where is your victory
He's alive He's alive
He is risen

Behold the vacant tomb that held our Lord
That grave became the stage for Heaven's glory
Behold the Risen King in open skies
He is the Resurrection He is the Life

Chorus

No weapon formed against us will prosper
The gates of hell won't stand
Your Church will rise from glory to glory
In the name of Jesus

Chorus

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

Old Testament Prophecy

Psalms 22:1-8, 14-18

Hymn of Confession of Sin

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Chords: F, C, F, Gm, D, Gm, F, C, F

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Chords: Bb, F, C7, F, C7, F, C, F, C, F, Gm, D

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ my God: all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down: did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

Chords: Gm, F, C, F, C7, Dm, Gm, C7, F

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Individual Confession

Absolution

Romans 5:12-15

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

Thanksgiving Hymn

Resurrection Hymn (See what a Morning)

See what a morning gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem
Folded the grave-clothes tomb filled with light
As the angels announce Christ is risen
See God's salvation plan wrought in love
Borne in pain paid in sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ the Man for He lives
Christ is risen from the dead

See Mary weeping where is He laid
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb
Hears a voice speaking calling her name
It's the Master the Lord raised to life again
The voice that spans the years
Speaking life stirring hope bringing peace to us
Will sound till He appears
For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

One with the Father Ancient of Days
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty
Honour and blessing glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority
And we are raised with Him
Death is dead love has won Christ has conquered
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

Gospel Fulfillment

Luke 23:44-49

Peace of Christ

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

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
World, without end; Amen, Amen.

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

New Testament Lesson

Acts 17:1-15

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

Sermon The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 20 | Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Christ is Risen He is Risen Indeed!

How can it be the One who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death
Sing sing hallelujah

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes
Alive He stands their Friend and King
Christ Christ He is risen

Chorus

Christ is risen He is risen indeed
Oh sing hallelujah
Join the chorus sing with the redeemed
Christ is risen He is risen indeed

Where doubt and darkness once had been
They saw Him and their hearts believed
But blessed are those who have not seen
Yet sing hallelujah

Once bound by fear now bold in faith
They preached the truth and power of grace
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life life everlasting

Chorus

The power that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save
He frees our hearts to live His grace
Go tell of His goodness

Chorus

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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/

Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism (1647), question 86:

What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible Church enjoy immediately after death?

The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible Church enjoy immediately after death, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness, and received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory; waiting for the full redemption of their bodies, which even in death continue united to Christ, and rest in their graves, as in their beds, till at the last day they be again united with their souls. Whereas the souls of the wicked are at their death cast into hell, where

they remain in torments and utter darkness; and their bodies kept in their graves, as in their prisons, until the resurrection and judgment of the great day.

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.

The Lord's Prayer (Lascoe)

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread, Forgive our debts as we forgive
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from all evil
For Thine is the kingdom, Thine is the power
Thine is the glory, Forever and ever
Amen amen

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

The Day of Resurrection

1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
 2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
 3. Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
 let the round world keep tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from this world to the sky,
 and lis - ening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 in - vis - i - ble and vis - i - ble, their notes let all things blend,

our Christ hath brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord hath ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

Benediction

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, giver of life, and conqueror of death.

By his death on the cross, your Son Jesus Christ offered the one true sacrifice for sin, breaking the power of evil and putting death to flight. Now,

(2 Cor. 13:14:) May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

REFLECTION

Ancient Superstitions, Modern Myths & Jesus Christ

Awhile ago I read a book about the Celts, conquerors of large chunks of ancient Europe. Unearthed burial sites indicate that lots of people were sacrificially killed when a leader died—just like the Indian culture that made the Cahokia Mounds—and by all accounts the Celts seem to have lived in dread of their gods. Yet they believed in the immortality of the soul.

The doctrine that we are all immortal, threads its way from ancient times into the present in most cultures. But the ancients feared death because they feared the gods. Modern people, having accepted the myth of the irrelevance of the God-question, try to talk themselves out of the fear of death. Peter Kreeft, a Christian professor of philosophy, writes about the modern tendency to tame death in his book, *Love is Stronger Than Death* (1979), and tells the story of a 7-year old boy whose cousin had suddenly died at the age of three. The 7-year old's mom didn't believe in life after death and had just read a book about how to explain death to children. So when her son asked her, "Where is my cousin now?" she answered,

Your cousin has gone back to the earth, where we all came from. All of nature is a cycle. Death is a natural part of that cycle. When you see the earth put out new flowers next spring, you can know that your cousin's life is fertilizing those flowers.

But she was stunned by her son's reaction. He screamed, "But I don't want him to be fertilizer!" and ran off. Children are too honest for our sugar-coated evasions.

What we celebrate in our liturgy today is not that death has been domesticated by redefining it but that *death has been conquered by Jesus Christ in his act of submitting himself to it....* Christ, the incarnate God, broke the back of death when he offered his pure and perfect life to the fury of the justice of God on our behalf.

– Ron Lutjens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All-Saints Collaborative Feast will replace our community group meeting this Sunday Night, November 1, 5:30-7pm. We'll continue our celebration of Jesus' triumph over death for His people by having a meal together and hanging out **at 2 locations**: we'll meet inside and limit each location to 15 participants (first-come-first-serve), so please RSVP to the location that's most convenient:

(1) at the Touchtons (165 Forest Rd., Milford, CT 06461):

RSVP—text Tammy at 502-303-5744;

(2) at the Bishops (21 Green St., Milford, CT 06460):

RSVP to curran.bishop@cpcmilford.org

Thursday Night Prayer Meeting – 7-7:50pm

In the midst of pandemic, political chaos and social distancing 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.”

[Zoom link](#) Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 Passcode: 665297

Exploring Church Membership – Thursdays, 8-9pm, Will Not Meet This Week.

Worship Location Schedule

We are still working on where will be meeting next Sunday (November 8, 2020) and for future Sundays.

Contact us

203.812.9928 or info@cpcmilford.org; find us on Facebook at facebook.com/CPCMilford or visit us online at cpcmilford.org

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