



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

February 7, 2021
6th Sunday of Epiphany

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus, Incarnate Son of God: Lord of All Nature

Who can take in the wonders and richness
of this vast, complex, beauty-ridden world?
From the splendor of a snowflake
to the awesome tumult of a storm,
all nature shouts the praise of Him who made
and orchestrates the world!

Yet we, made in the image of God, stand higher—stand,
in fact, as the crown of creation, broken though we be.

Adam squandered our dominion-glory,
But the New Adam, God the Son,
came into the world as a man to restore it.

In submission once to creaturely decay,
Jesus now tames the universe as Lord.
All who own their guilt,
and run to his cross of Mercy for cover,
taste even now the Coming Reversal:
when death shall give way to life,
and all created things flourish
under the sweet rule of the redeemed of the Lord.
Blessed be his Name!

.....

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Here I am to Worship

Light of the world;
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see

Beauty that made;
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus:

So here I am to worship;
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely;
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days;
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came;
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Chorus

And I'll never know how much it cost;
To see my sin upon that cross (repeat)

Chorus

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

Call to Worship Colossians 1:15–17:

He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

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.

Invocation



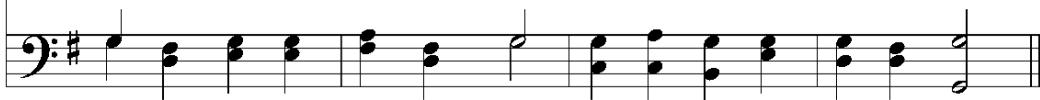
1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night;
3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child;
4. For Thy church that ev - er - more lifts her ho - ly hands a - bove,



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.

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 104:10-26

Praise Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth

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

New Testament Lesson Matthew 8:23-27

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 the world itself, or 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 misuse or worship your creation;

**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

Isaiah 55:6-7, 12

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Thanksgiving Hymn

Above All

Above all powers above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Chorus

Crucified laid behind the stone
You lived to die rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of us
Above all

Above all kingdoms above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure
What You're worth

Chorus

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 —

Sermon Text

Acts 22:30-23:11

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 28 | Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Psalm 62

My soul finds rest in God alone
My rock and my salvation
A fortress strong against my foes
And I will not be shaken
Though lips may bless and hearts may curse
And lies like arrows pierce me
I'll fix my heart on righteousness
I'll look to Him who hears me

Chorus

O praise Him hallelujah
My Delight and my Reward
Everlasting never failing
My Redeemer my God

Find rest my soul in God alone
Amid the world's temptations
When evil seeks to take a hold
I'll cling to my salvation
Though riches come and riches go
Don't set your heart upon them
The fields of hope in which I sow

Are harvested in heaven

Chorus

I'll set my gaze on God alone
And trust in Him completely
With ev'ry day pour out my soul
And He will prove His mercy
Though life is but a fleeting breath
A sigh too brief to measure
My King has crushed the curse of death
And I am His forever

Bridge

O praise Him O praise Him
Hallelujah hallelujah
(Repeat 2x)

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/

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 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.

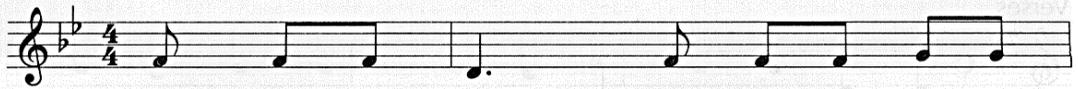
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Coronation Hymn

How Great Thou Art

Benediction Numbers 6.24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-



won-der Con-sid-er all the works thy hands have
 wan-der And hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the
 spar-ing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it
 ma-tion And take me home, what joy shall fill my



made, I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing
 trees, When I look down from loft-y moun-tain
 in That on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly
 heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, Thy pow'r through-out the un-i-verse dis-played!
 gran-deur And hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze,
 bear-ing, He bled and died to take a-way my sin!
 ra-tion And there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: How great thou



art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!

REFLECTION

The Christian and Nature

A truly biblical Christianity has a real answer to the ecological crisis. It offers a balanced and healthy attitude to nature, arising from the truth of its creation by God; it offers the hope here and now of substantial healing in nature of some of the results of the Fall, arising from the truth of redemption in Christ. In each of the alienations arising from the Fall, the Christians, individually and corporately, should consciously in practice be a healing redemptive factor—in the separation of man from God, of man from himself, of man from man, of man from nature, and of nature from nature....

It usually takes longer to treat the land properly. And these are the two factors that lead to the destruction of our environment: money and time—or to say it another way, greed and haste. The question is, or seems to be, are we going to have an immediate profit and an immediate saving of time, or are we going to do what we really should do as God's children?

We must confess that we missed our opportunity. We have spoken loudly against materialistic science, but we have done little to show that in practice we ourselves as Christians are not dominated by a technological orientation in regard either to man or nature. We should have been stressing and practicing for a long time that there is a basic reason why we should not do all we can do, but we have missed the opportunity to help man save his earth. Not only that, but in our generation we are losing an evangelistic opportunity, because when modern young people have a real sensitivity to nature, many of them turn to the hippie communities or mentality, where there is at least a genuine sense of nature (even if a wrong one), because they have seen that most Christians simply do not care about the beauty of nature, or nature as such.

So we have not only missed our opportunity to save the earth for man, but this also partly accounts for the fact that we have largely missed the opportunity of reaching the twentieth century. These are reasons why the Church seems irrelevant and helpless in our generation. We are living in, and practicing, a sub-Christianity.

– Francis Schaeffer, *Pollution and the Death of Man* (1970)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – Meets tonight, February 7, 4-5:30pm. at the Fowler Building (45 New Haven Ave, Milford, CT 06460; parking at I Shipyard Ln., Milford, CT 06460--across the parking lot from the pavilion) for an inductive Bible study and community building time.

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

Women's Bible Study – Every-other-Tues. 7:30-9 pm, in person and on zoom (this week, Feb 9). Please RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org. [Link](#) to the study guide (\$2.50). [Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 828 6871 9345 Passcode: 246223

Helping Without Hurting – Every-other-Thursday, (next week, Feb 18), 8-9 pm We'll look at how the nature and character of God shapes the mercy ministry of His Church using the book *When Helping Hurts*. [Zoom link](#) (same as prayer meeting) Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 Passcode: 665297

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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