



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

April 4, 2021  
Easter Sunday

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

#### **A Dialogue Anthem**

*Christian: Alas, poor Death, where is thy glory?  
Where is thy famous force, thy ancient sting?*

*Death: Alas poor Mortal, void of story,  
Go spell and read, how I have killed thy King.*

*Christian: Poor Death! And who was hurt thereby?  
Thy curse being laid in him, makes thee accursed.*

*Death: Let losers talk; yet thou shalt die.  
These arms shall crush thee.*

*Christian: Spare not, do thy worst.  
I shall be one day better than before:  
Thou so much worse, that thou shalt be no more.*

– George Herbert (1593-1633)

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## EASTER SUNDAY

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

### **Gathering 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

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

**Call to Worship** from Psalm 24 & I Corinthians 15

**Leader 1:** Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**People:** He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**L1:** Lift up your heads, O you gates!

**L2:** Be lifted up, you ancient doors!

**L1:** That the King of glory may come in.

**L2:** Who is this King of glory?

**People:** The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle!

**L1:** Lift up your heads, O you gates; / lift them up you ancient doors,

**L2:** that the King of Glory may come in!

**L1:** Who is he, this king of glory?

**People:** The Lord Almighty! He is the King of glory!

**L1 & L2:** The peace of the Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you!

Invocation

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 5. Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! Al - le - lu - ia!

Sons of men and an - gels say, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise to Thee by both be giv'n, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Once He died, our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Him, like Him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Thee we greet tri - um - phant now, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ hath o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion Thou! Al - le - lu - ia!

**Praise Hymn**      Christ the Lord is Risen Today

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

**Confession of Sin**

You have laid out a feast for us, but we have preferred starvation: fill us with your Spirit.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You have shined light on us, but we have huddled in the darkness: fill us with your Spirit.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You have given life to us, but we have run after death: fill us with your Spirit.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*Individual Confession*

**Absolution & Proclamation of the Good News**

**Gospel Lesson**      John 20:1-22

**The Greater and the Lesser Exodus:**

(adapted from Exodus 15 & I Corinthians 15)

L1: Jesus is alive!

**P: For the Lord of hosts was not willing to cast His exiled children out of His presence forever.**

L1: I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted.

**P: The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.**

L2: The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

**P: He is my God and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him; my mother's God, and I will love Him; my God, and I will worship Him.**

L1: The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is His name.

**P: Pharaoh's chariots and his army, He has hurled into the sea.**

L2: The best of Pharaoh's officers, are drowned in the Red Sea!

**P: The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.**

L1: Your right hand O Lord, was majestic in power. You made Egypt—the enemy of your people—a type and figure of that last and great enemy, Death itself.

**P: But your right hand O Lord, shattered the enemy! By your resurrected Son, You bring us through the pangs of death, into the Promised Land of**

**Life. You are the One making all things new.**

L1: But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

L2: Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices; my body also rests secure,

**P: because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay!**

L1: Listen to this mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

**P: For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

L1: For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

**P: Death has been swallowed up in victory!**

**O Death, where is your victory?**

**O Death, where is your sting?**

**ALL: 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! Praise the Lord!**

**Thanksgiving 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**

**Old Testament Lesson**    Isaiah 24:18–23; 25:6–9

### **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**        Acts 28:15-31

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

**Sermon**                    The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 33: Unhindered | Curran Bishop

**Response Hymn**        Thine Be the Glory

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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**                Nicene Creed (325 AD)

Christians, what do you believe?

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible, and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to the life in the world to come. 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.*

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - tory thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness,  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - querors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes where thy  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth; death hath  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan to thy

bod - y lay.  
 lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en con - quering Son;  
 home a - bove.

end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won!

## 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

### Lift High the Name of Jesus

Lift high the name of Jesus, Of Jesus our King.  
Make known the power of His grace, The beauty of His peace.  
Remember how His mercy reached; And we cried out to Him.  
He lifted us to solid ground, To freedom from our sin.

#### Chorus

Oh sing my soul, And tell all He's done,  
Till the earth and heavens are filled with His glory!

Lift high the name of Jesus, Of Jesus our Lord.  
His power in us is greater than, Is greater than this world.  
To share the reason for our hope, To serve with love and grace,  
That all who see Him shine through us, Might bring the Father praise.

#### Chorus

Lift high the name of Jesus, Of Jesus our Light.  
No other name on earth can save, Can raise a soul to life.  
He opens up our eyes to see The harvest He has grown.  
We labor in His fields of grace As He leads sinners home.

#### Chorus

## **Benediction**            Hebrews 13:20-21

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### REFLECTION

#### **Easter**

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise  
Without delays,  
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise  
With him mayst rise.  
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,  
His life may make thee gold, and much more just.  
Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part  
With all thy art.  
The cross taught all wood to resound his name,  
Who bore the same.  
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key  
Is best to celebrate this most high day.  
Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song  
Pleasant and long:  
Or since all music is but three parts vied  
And multiplied;  
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,  
And make up our defects with his sweet art.  
I got me flowers to straw thy way:  
I got me boughs off many a tree:  
But thou wast up by break of day,  
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.  
The Sun arising in the East,  
Though he give light, and th'East perfume;  
If they should offer to contest  
With thy arising, they presume.  
Can there be any day but this,  
Though many suns to shine endeavour?  
We count three hundred, but we miss:  
There is but one, and that one ever.

– George Herbert

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** – Will not meet tonight due to our Easter Celebrations.

**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

**Helping Without Hurting** – Every-other-Thursday, (this week, April 8), 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

**Women's Bible Study** – Every-other-Tues. 7:30-9 pm, in person and on zoom (next week, April 13). Please RSVP to [cpcmilford@gmail.com](mailto:cpcmilford@gmail.com). [Link](#) to the study guide (\$2.50).  
[Zoom Link](#) | Meeting ID: 828 6871 9345 | Passcode: 246223

### Contact us

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

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