



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

May 2, 2021
5th Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

Celebrating the Immortal Jesus as the Resurrection Community of Suffering & Persecution

Raised from a corruptible body to an indestructible life,
Jesus Christ now invites his followers
To share not only in his resurrection power
But also in his crucifixion weakness. O great privilege—
To suffer in solidarity with the Suffering Servant,
Even on this side of the empty tomb!

Afflicted but not crushed, Perplexed but not despairing
Persecuted but not broken,
Struck down but not destroyed.
We carry within us the dying of Jesus,
That his exquisite life may be seen
To animate our broken bodies till he comes again!

Dying, we live; Suffering, we triumph. Alleluia!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + **Easter** + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Up from the Grave He Arose

1 Low in the grave he lay— Je - sus, my Sav - ior; wait - ing the
 2 Vain - ly they watch his bed— Je - sus, my Sav - ior; vain - ly they
 3 Death can-not keep its prey— Je - sus, my Sav - ior; he tore the

B^b C7 F B^b Refrain

com-ing day— Je - sus, my Lord.
 seal the dead— Je - sus, my Lord. Up from the grave he a-rose,
 bars a - way— Je - sus, my Lord. *He a-rose!*

E^b B^b F7

with a might-y tri-umph o'er his foes. *He a-rose!* He a - rose a vic-tor

E^b B^b E^b C7 F

from the dark do - main, and he lives for - ev - er with his saints to reign!

B^b E^b B^b F7 B^b

He a-rose! *He a-rose!* He a-rose! *He a-rose!* Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

1. The Son of God goes forth to war, A king - ly crown to gain;
 2. The mar - tyr first, whose ea - gle eye Could pierce be - yond the grave;
 3. A glo - rious band, the cho - sen few On whom the Spir - it came,
 4. A no - ble ar - my, men and boys, The ma - tron and the maid,

His blood - red ban - ner streams a - far! Who fol - lows in His train?
 Who saw his Mas - ter in the sky, And called on Him to save.
 Twelve val - iant saints, their hope they knew, And mocked the cross and flame.
 A - round the Sav - ior's throne re - joice In robes of light ar - rayed.

Who best can drink His cup of woe, Tri - um - phant o - ver pain,
 Like Him, with par - don on His tongue, In midst of mor - tal pain,
 They met the ty - rant's bran - dished steel, The li - on's gor - y mane;
 They climbed the steep as - cent of heav'n, Through per - il, toil and pain;

Who pa - tient bears his cross be - low, He fol - lows in His train.
 He prayed for them that did the wrong! Who fol - lows in His train?
 They bowed their necks the death to feel: Who fol - lows in their train?
 O God, to us may grace be giv'n To fol - low in their train.

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

Call to Worship Romans 8:15-17, 35-39

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, **“Abba! Father!”**

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Invocation

New Testament Lesson I Peter 3:13-22

Praise Hymn The Son of God Goes Forth to War

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

Confession of Sin Matthew 10:16–24

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

Individual Confession

Absolution

Romans 8:31–35

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Thanksgiving Hymn

Knowing You

All I once held dear built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this

Chorus

Knowing You Jesus knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my God You're my King
You're the reason that I sing
And I love You Lord love You Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness

Chorus

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings

To become like You in Your death my Lord
So with You to live and never die

Chorus

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 60:1–2, 14–22

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 A “String of Pearls” from Proverbs on Friendship

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

Sermon Flourishing: a Study in Proverbs; Friendship

Response Hymn Ever and Aye (Psalm 136)

— 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/

Melody
Alto

Bass

Ev - er and aye, for - ev - er and aye, The mer - cies of the Lord en - dure for - ev - er and aye - UHHhpl!

LEADER

ALL

LEADER

ALL

1. Give thanks to God for he is good, *Ev - er and aye*, Give thanks un - to the God of gods, *Ev - er and aye*.

LEADER

ALL

LEADER

ALL

Give thanks un - to the Lord of lords, *Ev - er and aye*, Who does great won - ders for us all, *Ev - er and aye*. Refrain

2. Who by His wisdom made the skies—*Ever and aye!*
Who stretched the earth above the seas—...
To him who made great lights appear—...
The sun to rise and rule by day—...
3. Made moon and stars to rule by night—...
To him that struck the firstborn down—...
And brought the Jews from Egypt's land—...
With his own strong and outstretched arm—...
4. He split the Red Sea clean in two—...
And made the Jews to pass between—...
But drowned old Pharaoh and his host—...
Through wastelands led His people through—...

Confession of Faith The Barmen Declaration (1934)

Jesus Christ, as he is attested to us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God whom we have to hear, and whom we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

We reject the false doctrine that the Church could and should recognize as a source of its proclamation, beyond and besides this one Word of God, yet other events, powers, historic figures and truths as God's revelation.

As Jesus Christ is God's comforting pronouncement of the forgiveness of all our sins, so, with equal seriousness, he is also God's vigorous announcement of his claim upon our whole life. Through him there comes to us joyful liberation from the godless ties of this world for free, grateful service to his creatures.

We reject the false doctrine that there could be areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ but to other lords, areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

The Christian Church is the community of brethren in which, in Word and Sacrament, through the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ acts in the present as Lord. With both its faith and its obedience, with both its message and its order, it has to testify in the midst of the sinful world, as the Church of pardoned sinners, that it belongs to him alone and lives and may live by his comfort and under his direction alone, in expectation of his appearing.

We reject the false doctrine that the Church could have permission to hand over the form of its message and of its order to whatever it itself might wish or to the vicissitudes of the prevailing ideological and political convictions of the 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.

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

What'er My God Ordains Is Right

Whate'er my God ordains is right
His holy will abideth
I will be still whate'er He does
And follow where He guideth
He is my God though dark my road
He holds me that I shall not fall
And so to Him I leave it all

Whate'er my God ordains is right
He never will deceive me
He leads me by the proper path
I know He will not leave me
I take content What He has sent
His hand can turn my griefs away
And patiently I wait His day

Whate'er my God ordains is right
Though now this cup in drinking
May bitter seem to my faint heart
I take it all unshrinking
My God is true each morn anew
Sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart
And pain and sorrow shall depart

Whate'er my God ordains is right
Here shall my stand be taken
Though sorrow need or death be mine
Yet I am not forsaken

My Father's care is round me there
He holds me that I shall not fall
And so to Him I leave it all

Benediction I Peter 5:8-11

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

REFLECTION

And After You Have Suffered A Little...

I have always been a sheep. I was never a goat. I was created and cut out and born in the world for heaven. Even before God freed my soul and told me to go, I never was hell-scared. I just never did feel that my soul was made to burn in hell.

God started on me when I wasn't but ten years old. I was sick with the fever, and he called me and said, "You are ten years old." I didn't know how old I was, but later on I asked my older sister and she told me that I was ten years old when I had the fever.

As I grew up I used to frolic a lot and was considered a good dancer, but I never took much interest in such things. I just went many times to please my friends and, later on, my husband. What I loved more than all else was to go to church.

I used to pray then. I pray now and just tell God to take me and do his will, for he knows the every secret of my heart. He knows what we stand most in need of before we ask for it, and if we trust him, he will give us what we ought to have in due season. Some people pray and call on God as if they think he is ignorant of their needs or else asleep. But God is a time-God. I know this, for he told me so. I remember one morning I was on my way home with a bundle of clothes to wash—it was after my husband had died—and I felt awfully burdened down, and so I commenced to talk to God. It looked like I was having such a hard time. Everybody seemed to be getting along well but poor me. I told him so. I said, "Lord, it looks like you come to everybody's house but mine. I never bother my neighbors or cause any disturbance. I have lived as it is becoming a poor widow woman to live and yet, Lord, it looks like I have a harder time than anybody." When I said this, something told me to turn around and look. I put my bundle down and looked towards the east part of the world. A voice spoke to me as plain as day, but it was inward and said, "I am a time-God working after the counsel of my own will. In due time I will bring all things to you. Remember and cause your heart to sing.

– Testimony of a former slave, in *God Struck Me Dead: Voices of Ex-Slaves*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – Meets tonight, May 2, 5:30-7pm at the Alburgers' (97 Oxford Rd., Milford, CT 06460) for a picnic and community building time.

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

Thursday Night Prayer Meeting – 7-7:50pm. Regular prayer for each other, our community, our world and the redemptive work of God is essential to our mission. Please join us as we follow a short prayer and scripture liturgy and pray for each other. [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 | Passcode: 665297

Helping Without Hurting – May 13, 8-9pm (following prayer meeting). We'll meet for a last session to apply what we've learned to our congregational benevolence/mercy ministry policies. [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 | Passcode: 665297 (same as prayer meeting)

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, May 16. We will meet for 15-20 minutes following worship to discuss the 2021-22 budget and ministry plan, as well as the summer schedule.

Contact us

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