



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

June 13, 2021  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of History**

The history of the world does not unfold according to unbending laws of economic necessity, as Marxists think; It does not evolve randomly and unpredictably under the autonomy of human decision, as humanists believe.

The world lies under the sovereign control and direction Of one incarnate, crucified, resurrected and ruling Man, Jesus Christ.

He is the radiance of the glory of the one living and true God;

He is the exact imprint of God's nature, And he holds the universe together by the word of his power.

He raises up nations and empires— and he brings them down;

He directs decisions of leaders and power brokers.

He knows every star by name,

And yet comes in mercy to anyone who turns to him.

Jesus Christ, who entered the ambiguities and the turmoil of human history,

Is now its resurrected Lord!

In mysterious and strange ways

He is bringing all things to a great and glorious End;

Even now he is ruling the world,

Bending every created thing to serve his purposes of love and justice.

Praise him, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

Now and forever. Alleluia!

.....

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

## Gathering Hymn    In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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

**Call to Worship**

Psalms 110:1-2, 5-6; 109:30-31

The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

**The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.  
Rule in the midst of your enemies!**

The Lord is at your right hand;  
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

**He will execute judgment among the nations,  
filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs  
over the wide earth.**

With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD;  
I will praise him in the midst of the throng.

**For he stands at the right hand of the needy,  
to save him from those who condemn his soul to death.**

Invocation

**Praise Hymn**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

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

**Old Testament Lesson** Job 38:4-24

**Confession of Sin**

**Confession Hymn** Come Ye Sinners, (verses 1-3)

*Individual Confession*

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5. The busy tribes of flesh and blood,  
 with all their lives and cares,  
 are carried downward by your flood,  
 and lost in foll'wing years.

6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
 bears all its sons away;  
 they fly forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the op'ning day.

7. Our God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come:  
 O be our guard while troubles last,  
 and our eternal home.

1 Come ye sin - ners, poor and nee - dy, Weak and woun - ded, sick and sore;  
 2 Come, ye thir - sty, come and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;  
 3 Come ye wea - ry, hea - vy - la - den, Lost and ru - ined by the fall;  
 4 Let not cons - cience make you lin - ger, Nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;

Je - sus read - y stands to save you, Full of pi - ty, love and pow'r.  
 True be - lief and true re - pen - tance, Ev' - ry grace that brings you nigh.  
 If you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, You will ne - ver come at all.  
 All the fit - ness He re - qui - reth Is to feel your need of Him.

*Chorus*

I will a - rise and go to Je - sus, He will em - brace me in His arms;

In the arms of my dear Sa - vior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

**Absolution**                      2 Samuel 22:26–29

With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; with the purified you deal purely, and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. You save a humble people, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down. For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness.

**Thanksgiving Hymn**            Come Ye Sinners, (verse 4)

**New Testament Lesson**    Acts 17:22-31

**Peace of Christ**

The peace of the Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

**Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him, all creatures here below!  
Praise Him above, you heavenly host! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen!

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

**Sermon Text**                      1 Peter 1:1-2

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**                              Is Suffering Relevant? | Pastor Curran Bishop

**Response Hymn**    Though Troubles Assail Us

— 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/](http://give.pcamna.org/to/1708/)

G C Am D Em G D<sup>7</sup> G

1. Though trou - bles as - sail us and dan - gers af - fright,  
 2. The birds, with - out gar - ner or store - house, are fed;  
 3. When Sa - tan as - sails us to stop up our path,  
 4. No strength of our own and no good - ness we claim;

C Am D Em G D<sup>7</sup> G

though friends should all fail us and foes all u - nite,  
 from them let us learn to trust God for our bread.  
 and cour - age all fails us, we tri - umph by faith.  
 yet, since we have known of the Sav - ior's great name,

F D G Em G D

yet one thing se - cures us, what - ev - er be - tide,  
 His saints what is fit - ting shall ne'er be de - nied  
 He can - not take from us, though oft he has tried,  
 in this our strong tow - er for safe - ty we hide:

C Am D Em G D<sup>7</sup> G 7

the prom - ise as - sures us, "The Lord will pro - vide."  
 so long as 'tis writ - ten, "The Lord will pro - vide."  
 this heart - cheer - ing prom - ise, "The Lord will pro - vide."  
 the Lord is our pow - er, "The Lord will pro - vide."

## **Confession of Faith**          Westminster Larger Catechism (1647)

Q. 12. What are the decrees of God?

**A. God's decrees are the wise, free, and holy acts of the counsel of his will, whereby, from all eternity, he hath, for his own glory, unchangeably fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass in time, especially concerning angels and men.**

Q. 14. How does God execute his decrees?

**A. God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence, according to his infallible fore-knowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will.**

## **Communion in Christ Jesus**

*All Christians are invited to receive Christ's presence of bread and wine. When directed please take your bulletin, stand and form a circle around the worship space. Whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle. If you are not able to stand, please move your chair into the circle. We serve wine in the outer rings of the tray in the Lord's Supper, believing it to be the Biblical element used. We provide grape juice in the inner rings for those who, out of conscience or for health, do not drink wine.*

## **Communion Hymn**          He Will Hold Me Fast (verses 1-2)

When I fear my faith will fail  
Christ will hold me fast  
When the tempter would prevail  
He will hold me fast  
I could never keep my hold  
Through life's fearful path  
For my love is often cold  
He must hold me fast

### **Chorus**

He will hold me fast  
He will hold me fast  
For my Savior loves me so  
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight  
Christ will hold me fast  
Precious in His holy sight  
He will hold me fast  
He'll not let my soul be lost  
His Promises shall last  
Bought by Him at such a cost  
He will hold me fast

### **Chorus**

#### **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**

#### **He Will Hold Me Fast (verse 3)**

For my life He bled and died  
Christ will hold me fast  
Justice has been satisfied  
He will hold me fast  
Raised with Him to endless life  
He will hold me fast  
Till our faith is turned to sight  
When He comes at last

### **Chorus**

## **Benediction**            Rom. 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

## REFLECTION

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### **Who's In Charge?**

We men may do what we will, Nebuchadnezzar may come and Genghis Khan and Mao Tse-tung [we could add: and Saddam Hussein and Kim Jong-il]; none of them can break God's plans, but rather must fulfill them—against their will! Even though what we hear now is the dark minor tone, what is being played is still God's symphony, and it will be played out to the end. The individual tones may think they are who knows what; they may want to assert themselves and swing out on their own. And yet they have all been composed into a score of which God alone is in command and in which everything, when it is heard from heaven's vantage point, has its place in God's succession of tones that end in his final chord. "The rich of this world are in process of going, but the kingdom of God is in process of coming," Blurnhardt once said.

Therefore, even in the pressure zone of mass means of destruction and growing tyranny, we must have the long view and the confident calmness of those who know they have a secure place in the score of God's eternal symphony. For above the battle of the powers—the outcome of which we do not know—above all the crises and threats in our personal life there sounds, like a peaceful, comforting bell, the promise of God: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Every time the world goes to its autumn rest and every day as the peace of evening descends anew upon the earth we are to receive this message, like a blinking signal from the Eternal God: "I calmly pursue my course through all the convulsions and derangements of your life. And just as I direct the rhythm of days and seasons, so I encompass the islands and the continents, the men of faith and the atheists, the constitutional states and the tyrannies. Don't ever think that anybody will ever be able to break away from serving me, though he renounce me ten times over! Even in the extreme perversion of authority, as in the tyranny of a totalitarian state, men are compelled despite themselves to preserve a remnant of my order and they can never succeed in consistently devilizing and ruining my world. And I, who have power of the whole world of space, should I not be able to encompass your little life, hear your questions and your groans, and unravel the tangled line of your need?"

– Helmut Thielicke, *Outlines of a New World Order* (1960)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** – Meets tonight, June 13, 5:30-7pm at the Alburger's (97 Oxford Road, Milford, CT 06460) for a picnic and community building time.

**Women's Bible Study** –Meets next on Saturday, June 19, 9:00-10:30 AM at the Bishops' house, 21 Green Street. Please RSVP to [cpcmilford@gmail.com](mailto:cpcmilford@gmail.com) for location info.

**Wednesday 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

**Summer VBS and BBQ with Christ Pres in the Hill** – Save the date to participate with our sister congregation in their outreach to their neighborhood on Saturday, July 24 (for VBS) and Wednesday, August 4 (for BBQ).

**Summer Sunday Worship** – This coming Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be worshipping together at the Fowler Pavilion.

### Contact us

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