



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

July 4, 2021
7th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Ministering Magistrates

The Lord reigns on high,
The Lord is worthy to be praised;
Righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
He who makes angelic spirits to serve him,
Raises up human magistrates to do his bidding.
For the sake of the world he raises them up:
 To punish those doing evil,
 And reward those doing good.

Bless the Lord for his kindness to the nations—
 For governors and prime ministers,
 For town councils and presidents,
 For judges and lawmakers:
All are given for justice and to promote what is good,
That the peoples may flourish and the earth be refreshed.
All are called to be wise and fair;
All will answer one day in the Great Judgment;
All serve the citizens they govern;
All are subject to the crucified, risen, ruling, King Jesus.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia!

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn God of Our Fathers

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

*Organ or trumpets
before each stanza*

1. God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y
2. Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
3. From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
4. Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry
 past; in this free land by thee our lot is
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er - sure de -
 way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing

band of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the
 cast; be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and
 fense; thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in -
 day; fill all our lives with love and grace di -

skies, our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 stay; thy Word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 crease, thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 vine, and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

Call to Worship

2 Samuel 23:2–5a

The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.

The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me:

When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.

For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure.

Invocation

Praise Hymn

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Chorus

Confession of Sin The Ten Commandments

1. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. *[pause]* **But we have made gods of many things.**
2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. *[pause]* **But we have made idols—whether physical intellectual, emotional, or spiritual—of so many false gods.**
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. *[pause]* **But we have misused your Word and profaned your Name.**
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. *[pause]* **But we are too afraid or busy to set aside a whole day in the week to remember You.**
5. Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. *[pause]* **But we have failed to honor those God has placed in authority over us.**
6. You shall not murder. *[pause]* **But we have murdered—in our hearts and minds if not also with our hands.**
7. You shall not commit adultery. *[pause]* **But we are an adulterous people—in our hearts and minds if not also with our hands.**
8. You shall not steal. *[pause]* **But we have stolen—in our hearts and minds; in our defrauding of others; if not also with our hands.**
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. *[pause]* **But we have lying tongues.**
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's. *[pause]* **But we covet all we see.** **Lord Jesus, forgive us!**

D G D Em⁷ A⁷ D

1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;
 2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to be his aid;
 3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing pris - 'ner free,
 4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;

G D Em⁷ A⁷ D

I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.
 he is blessed whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his God is stayed.
 rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eye to see.
 I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.

G D G D

Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on man de - pend;
 Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - at - ed, seas and all that they con - tain;
 Well Je - ho - vah loves the righ - teous, and the strang - er he be - friends,
 O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all a - ges he is King;

G D Em⁷ A⁷ D 7

he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing, and his pur - pos - es shall end.
 he de - liv - ers from op - pres - sion, righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.
 helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
 un - to him, your God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

Absolution I Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

Thanksgiving Hymn Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul

Old Testament Lesson Esther 9:23-10:3

New Testament Lesson Romans 13:1-7

Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

The Gospel Song

Holy God in love became, Perfect Man to bear my blame

On the cross He took my sin, By His death I live again

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

Sermon Text I Peter 1:13-2:3

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Resident Aliens: I Peter for Modern Christians | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in His hands
Who has numbered every grain of sand
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne

Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

Who has given counsel to the Lord
Who can question any of His words
Who can teach the One who knows all things
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds

Chorus

Who has felt the nails upon His hands
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal humbled to the grave
Jesus Savior risen now to reign

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

Westminster Confession of Faith, from Chapter 23 (1647)

God, the Supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates to be under him, over the people, for his own glory and the public good, and to this end hath armed them with the power of the sword, for the defense and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evil-doers.

It is lawful for Christians to accept and execute the office of a magistrate when called thereunto; in the managing whereof, as they ought especially to maintain piety, justice, and peace, according to the wholesome laws of each commonwealth, so, for that end, they may lawfully, now under the New Testament, wage war upon just and necessary occasion....

It is the duty of people to pray for magistrates, to honor their persons, to pay them tribute and other dues, to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their authority, for conscience' sake.

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 How Deep the Father's Love (verses 1-2)

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

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 How Deep the Father's Love (verse 3)

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no power no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Benediction from Micah 5:4-5

Christ shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. May you dwell secure, for Christ is great to the ends of the earth. And may He be your peace.

REFLECTION

What Good Is Government?

The institution of civil government is for the purpose of restraining evil and promoting good in the whole body politic.

Civil magistrates are sent by God **“to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right”** (1 Peter 2:14.). Notwithstanding all the miscarriage of justice and all the faults that have characterized civil government in the course of history, the purpose of this divine institution has not

completely failed. The Roman state in the days of the apostles was characterized by gross corruptions that defeated the very end for which government was instituted.

Yet it was of such government that Paul could say, **“For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.”** (Rom. 13:3-4) While particular governments do themselves often perpetrate the grossest injustices, yet the testimony of Scripture and of experience is that apart from the restraints imposed and the order promoted by civil government the condition of this world would be one of moral and economic barbarism.

Civil government as such is not a redemptive ordinance. But it provides, and is intended to provide, that outward peace and order within which the ordinances of redemption may work to the accomplishment of God’s saving purposes. It is on this basis and to the end of fostering in believers the recognition and appreciation of it that Paul says to Timothy, **“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way”** (1 Tim. 2:1, 2).

The tranquility and order established and preserved by the ordinances of government are benefits enjoyed by all. This blessing arising from divine institution we must regard therefore as a common blessing and therefore as one of the institutions of common grace.

The evidence drawn from Scripture, then, compels the conclusion that the world as a whole, though subject to the curse [that came on it through] sin, receives the showers of manifold blessing, that men who still lie under the divine condemnation of sin, including even those who will finally suffer the full weight of that condemnation in perdition, are the recipients in this life of multiple favors that proceed from God’s lovingkindness.... So that viewing God’s government of this world, even from the aspect of his common or non-saving grace, we may say, the earth is full of the glory of the Lord and all peoples see his glory.

– John Murray, *Systematic Theology* (1977)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – Meets tonight, July 4, 5:30-7pm at the Touchton's house (165 Forest Road, Milford, CT 06460) for an Independence Day celebration. They will be providing hamburgers and hotdogs. Check the weekly email for a link to signup to bring a dish, drink or side. Feel free to invite family, friends, and neighbors!

Women's Bible Study – Meets next on Saturday, July 10, 9:00-10:30 AM to discuss chapter 3 of *Steadfast: A Devotional Bible Study on the Book of James*. Please RSVP to 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 Sunday Pop-Up Worship – For the month of July, we will be meeting at the Fowler Pavilion- 1 Shipyard Lane, Milford, CT, 06460.

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).

Contact us

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