



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

July 11, 2021  
8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Ministering Angels**

Of the eternal and incarnate Son  
The Father says,  
“Let all the angels of God worship him.”  
For he has inherited a Name higher than theirs;  
By the depth of his love,  
Shown in the bitterness of his suffering,  
Christ has been exalted above every angelic spirit  
in the universe.  
Now they serve him, now they submit to him,  
Rendering their help as bodiless spirits  
Sent from the unseen world to serve God’s elect children  
in the seen world.  
Thanks be to God, Lord of all creatures!  
Thanks be to Christ, Who bore up our humanness  
To the Central Heights of glory in the world invisible,  
Past even angels,  
that we might be with God forever.  
Alleluia!

.....

### EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

**Gathering Hymn**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

**Call to Worship**    Revelation 5:11–13:

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

**“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”**

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

**“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”**

Invocation

**Praise Hymn**        Lion of Judah

You're the Lion of Judah, the Lamb who was slain  
You ascended to heaven and ever more will reign  
At the end of the age when the earth You reclaim  
You will gather the nations before You  
And the eyes of all men will be fixed on the Lamb  
Who was crucified  
With wisdom and mercy and justice you'll reign  
At Your Father's side

**Chorus**

And the angels will cry hail the Lamb  
Who was slain for the world rule in pow'r  
And the earth will reply You shall reign  
As the King of all kings  
And the Lord of all lords

There's a shield in our hand and a sword at our side  
There's a fire in our spirits that cannot be denied  
'Cause the Father has told us for these You have died  
For the nations who gather before You  
And the ears of all men need to hear of the Lamb

Who was crucified  
Who descended to hell yet was raised up to reign  
At His Father's side

## **Chorus**

**Epistle Lesson**      Hebrews 1:6-14

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

## **Confession of Sin**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace. Amen.**

*— Agnus Dei, the oldest recorded Christian prayer*

**Absolution**              Hebrews 1:3–4

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

**Thanksgiving Hymn**      Christ shall have Dominion

**Gospel Lesson**      Matthew 13:24-30, 36-42; 18:10-14

## **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!

Capo 1: (D) (Em<sup>7</sup>) (A<sup>7</sup>) (Bm<sup>7</sup>) (A) (D)

1. Christ shall have do - min - ion o - ver land and sea, earth's re - mot - est  
 2. When the need - y seek him, he will mer - cy show; yea, the weak and  
 3. Ev - er and for - ev - er shall his name en - dure, long as suns con -  
 4. Un - to God Al - might - y joy - ful Zi - on sings; he a - lone is

(Em<sup>7</sup>) (A) (E<sup>7</sup>) (A) (D)

re - gions shall his em - pire be; they that wilds in - hab - it shall their  
 help - less shall his pit - y know; he will sure - ly save them from op -  
 tin - ue it shall stand se - cure; and in him for - ev - er all men  
 glo - rious, do - ing won - drous things. Ev - er - more, ye peo - ple, bless his

(G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (Em<sup>7</sup>) (A)

wor - ship bring, kings shall ren - der trib - ute, na - tions serve our King.  
 pres - sion's might, for their lives are pre - cious in his ho - ly sight.  
 shall be blest, and all na - tions hail him King of kings con - fessed.  
 glo - rious name, his e - ter - nal glo - ry through the earth pro - claim.

REFRAIN  
 (D) (A) (D)

Christ shall have do - min - ion o - ver land and sea,

(D) (A<sup>7</sup>) (D) (G) (Em<sup>7</sup>) (A<sup>7</sup>) (D) 7

earth's re - mot - est re - gions shall his em - pire be.

— 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**      I'll Not Be Shaken

For God alone I wait in silence.  
My soul is still before the Lord.  
He is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress strong; I trust in Him.

**Chorus**

I'll not be shaken, I'll not be shaken,  
for all my hope is in His love.  
From God alone comes my salvation;  
I'll wait and trust His steadfast love.

Put not your hope in gain of riches;  
seek not your rest in empty wealth.  
The rich are weak, the poor are mighty  
who turn to God alone for help.

**Chorus**

Pour out your heart to God our refuge  
and trust in Him to hear your cry.  
No other hope will never fail you,  
no other love will not run dry.

**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/](http://give.pcamna.org/to/1708/)

#### Confession of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of Heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hell;

the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty;  
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.  
Amen.

\*that is, the universal church

#### 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**

Before the Throne of God Above (verses 1-3)

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart (repeat)

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me (repeat)

Behold Him there the risen Lamb  
My perfect spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I Am  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased with His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God (repeat)

## **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**                      Before the Throne of God Above (verse 4)

I bow before the cross of Christ  
And marvel at this love divine  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed  
To make me righteous in God's eyes  
This river's depths I cannot know  
But I can glory in its flood  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low  
And poured on me His glorious love (repeat)

**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.

NOTES

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## REFLECTION

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### **A Christian View of Angels**

**What an Angel Is.** An angel is a spiritual creature, a personal being without a body, appointed for the service of the divine church.

**Bible Does Not Say Much About Angels.** Moses writes nothing about the creation of the angels because.....he did not want to provide an opportunity for speculation. Our God did the right thing in that He did not permit many matters to be written; otherwise we would have despised what we now have and would have pried into what is beyond us.

**Good Angels Are the Stronger.** That the entire world is not a mass of flames, that all towns and villages are not lying in a heap of ruins, we owe to the working and doing of the good angels. They are far more sensible and wise than the evil angels, because they have a mirror into which they look, a mirror the devil does not have. It is called *facies Patris*, the face of our Lord God. This is why one good angel is far wiser than all the devils put together. The good angels are much mightier too; for they stand in the presence of Him whose name is *Omnipotens*, the Almighty.

**Their Appearances Create Fear.** The good angels bring terror; that is, they come with a certain majesty...so that the people to whom they come are frightened. Thus Mary is filled with fear upon seeing the angel (Luke 1:29)....But an evil angel creeps along smoothly and gently, like a serpent, until he has lured people into security and sin; then he departs, leaving horrible fear behind.

**Angels at our Side Even in Death.** You should be certain that angels are protecting you when you go to sleep, yea, that they are protecting you also in all your business, whether you enter your home or leave your home....Therefore even when you come to die, you should say that Christ will be with you and will have an unnumbered multitude of holy angels with him. You should know that angels are at your side not only in this life but also in death.

– From the writings of Martin Luther (1484-1546)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** – Meets tonight, July 11, 5:30-7pm at the Alburger's house (97 Oxford Road, Milford, CT 06460) for a picnic and community building time. Check the weekly email for a link to sign up to bring a dish, drink or side.

**Women's Bible Study** – We will be meeting on the following Saturdays: July 24, Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, and Sept. 25 from 9:00-10:30 AM, in person. Future locations will be announced. 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 Sunday Pop-Up Worship** – We'll be meeting at the Fowler Pavilion (1 Shipyard Lane, Milford, CT 06460) for the month of July, and the MAC (40 Railroad Ave., Milford, CT 06460) for the month of August.

**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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