



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

July 18, 2021  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd**

He who calls us His sheep,  
Promises to be our Shepherd.  
Our Shepherd is good. Our Shepherd is God.

The Holy One of Israel,  
The One who never sleeps nor slumbers,  
Will surely protect us from our foes:  
Though they attack and drag us down,  
They shall never ruin us.

Our Shepherd's grace and kindness will feed us;  
Come, let us graze in Messiah's pasture,  
Let us drink his cool water.  
Safe in him, we shall flourish—  
Even in a valley full of the shadows of death.  
Secure in his love, we shall praise him,  
And the world will see in us  
The salvation of our God!

.....

## NINTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

**Gathering Hymn**    Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

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

1. Shep-herd of souls, re - fresh and bless your cho - sen pil - grim flock  
 2. Hun - gry and thirst - y, faint and weak, as you when here be - low,  
 3. We would not live by bread a - lone, but by that Word of grace,  
 4. Be known to us in break - ing bread, but do not then de - part;  
 5. There sup with us in love di - vine; your bod - y and your blood,

with man - na in the wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.  
 our souls the joys ce - les - tial seek which from your sor - rows flow.  
 • in strength of which we trav - el on to our a - bid - ing place.  
 Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread your ta - ble in our heart.  
 that liv - ing bread, that heav'n - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

## Call to Worship    Isaiah 40:10-11

Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,

**and his arm rules for him;**

behold, his reward is with him,

**and his recompense before him.**

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

**he will gather the lambs in his arms;**

he will carry them in his bosom,

**and gently lead those that are with young.**

## Invocation

## **Praise Hymn**

## **King Of Love**

The King of Love my Shepherd is  
Whose goodness faileth never  
I nothing lack if I am His  
And He is mine forever

Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth

### **Chorus**

Never failing Ruler of my heart  
Everlasting Lover of my soul  
On the mountain high or in the valley low  
The King of Love my Shepherd is  
The King of Love my Shepherd is

Lost and foolish off I strayed  
But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
And home rejoicing brought me

In death's dark veil I fear no ill  
With Thee dear Lord beside me  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still  
Thy cross before to guide me

### **Chorus**

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never  
Good Shepherd may I sing Your praise  
Within Your house forever

### **Chorus**

## Old Testament Lesson    Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-25, 27b-28

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

### Confession of Sin

(based on Isaiah 53)

O Lord, forgive me; for I have despised and forsaken you.  
It was I who made you a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief  
It was I who hid my face from you; I despised you, and counted you nothing.

O Lord, you yourself bore my griefs, and carried my sorrows;  
I counted you stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But you were wounded for my transgressions; you were crushed for my sins.  
The Chastening for my well-being fell upon you;  
and it was by your scourging that I am healed.

Like a foolish sheep, I have gone astray;  
I have turned – like all the rest – to my own way.  
But the Lord has laid on you every bit of my guilt.  
Have mercy on me, Lord Jesus, for I am grieved by my offenses.    Amen.

### Absolution                    John 10:7-15

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**Thanksgiving Hymn**                    The Lord's My Shepherd

1. The LORD's my Shep - herd, I'll not want. He  
 2. My soul He doth re - store a - gain; and  
 3. Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale, yet  
 4. My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - éd in  
 5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall

makes me down to lie in pas - tures green; He  
 me to walk doth make with - in the paths of  
 will I fear no ill; for Thou art with me,  
 pres - ence of my foes; my head Thou dost with  
 sure - ly fol - low me; and in God's house for

lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 right - eous - ness, ev'n for His own name's sake.  
 and Thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
 oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 ev - er - more my dwell - ing place shall be.

## **New Testament Lesson** Luke 15:1-7

### **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** I Peter 2:4-

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

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

**Response Hymn** O Church Arise

O church arise and put your armor on  
Hear the call of Christ our Captain  
For now the weak can say that they are strong  
In the strength that God has given  
With shield of faith and belt of truth  
We'll stand against the devil's lies  
An army bold whose battle cry is Love  
Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war to love the captive soul  
But to rage against the captor  
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole  
We will fight with faith and valour

When faced with trials on every side  
We know the outcome is secure  
And Christ will have the prize for which He died  
An inheritance of nations

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet  
As the Son of God is stricken  
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet  
For the Conqueror has risen  
And as the stone is rolled away  
And Christ emerges from the grave  
This victory march continues till the day  
Every eye and heart shall see Him

So Spirit come put strength in every stride  
Give grace for every hurdle  
That we may run with faith to win the prize  
Of a servant good and faithful  
As saints of old still line the way  
Retelling triumphs of His grace  
We hear their calls and hunger for the day  
When with Christ we stand in glory

— 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

Heidelberg Catechism, question 1 (1563)

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.



He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,  
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.  
He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my Father in heaven;  
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.  
Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

### **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**                  Wood and Nails

O humble carpenter down on your hands and knees  
Look on your handiwork and build a house  
So you may dwell in Me  
So you may dwell in Me

The work was done with nothing but wood and nails  
In Your scar-borne hands  
O show me how to work and praise  
Trusting that I am Your instrument

O loving laborer with the sweat upon your face  
O build a table that I too may join you  
In the father's place  
Oh in the Father's place

The kingdom's come and built upon  
Wood and nails gripped with joyfulness  
So send me out within Your ways  
Knowing that the task 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.*

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## **Coronation Hymn**

Wood and Nails

The dead will rise and give You praise  
Wood and nails will not hold them down  
These wooden tombs we'll break them soon  
And fashion them into flower beds

The curse is done the battle won  
Swords bent down into plowshares  
Your scar-borne hands we'll join with them  
Serving at the table You've prepared

## **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

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### **Being Sheep**

During my own years as a keeper of sheep, perhaps some of the most poignant memories are wrapped around the commingled anxiety of keeping a count of my flock and repeatedly saving and restoring cast [i.e. lost] sheep.... Again and again I would spend hours searching for a single sheep that was missing. Then more often than not I would see it at a distance, down on its back, lying helpless. At once I would start to run toward it—hurrying as fast I could—for every minute was critical. Within me there was a mingled sense of fear and joy: fear it might be too late; joy that it was found at all.

— Phillip Keller, *A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23* (1970)

I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them.

I the LORD have spoken.

—Ezekiel 34:22-24

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** – Meets tonight, July 18, 5:30-7pm at the Costen's house (846 New Haven Ave.; park on Eels Hill Rd) for a picnic and community building time. 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** – 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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