



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

August 8, 2021
12th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus Christ, the Great Reconciler

The wrath of God hangs over the rebel world,
and the world is at odds with itself:
rich against poor, young against old, Arab against Jew, Syrian against Syrian,
man against woman, young against old, terrorist against America,
white against black, liberal against conservative.
“In the world you have trouble.” But thanks be to God!
The Great Reconciler has come, even Jesus the Christ.
At Calvary’s cross he purchased our peace with God,
And from it flows the reconciliation of the world.
Vindicated by his resurrection, He now breaks down the dividing wall of hostility,
and recreates us one New Humanity, one Church throughout the earth.
Worship the Lord in confidence and delight—
but dare to come to him only through his Reconciler.

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TWELFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

Arise My Soul Arise

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands, Before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

Chorus

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead;
His blood atoned for every race, His blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Chorus

Five bleeding wounds He bears; received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

Chorus

The Father hears Him pray, His dear anointed One;
He cannot turn away the presence of His Son;
The Spirit answers to the blood, The Spirit answers to the blood
And tells me I am born of God.

Chorus

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear
With confidence I now draw nigh, With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.

Chorus

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

Call to Worship Colossians 1:19-20, 2 Cor. 5:19

For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of his cross.

**In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their
trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.**

Invocation

Praise Hymn

King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting, Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running, There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets, To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory, To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father, Praise the Son, Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory, Majesty, Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming, And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died

Chorus

And the morning that You rose, All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good, For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs, And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come, To the Father are restored

Chorus

And the Church of Christ was born, Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old, Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name, In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ, Who has resurrected me

Chorus

Old Testament Lesson Leviticus 1:1-9

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

Confession of Sin

from Colossians 3:1-10

“If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”

O Lord, we have put our trust in you; we have been raised with Christ our Lord; but the things above seem so far off.

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

O Lord, the things of earth captivate, they thrill, they distract; the things above seem so far off.

“For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

O God my Father, the present task, or success or fun, the present crisis, or pain, or boredom, captures me; and the future glory, won for me by my Savior at the Cross, seems so far away.

“Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness — which is idolatry. On account of these things the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them.”

O Lord, much that is impure lives in me still, and it is painful to put it to death. O Lord, have mercy on me.

“But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.”

“Put them all away!” O God, we have sinned; O God, I have sinned. I have not put all these things away; though your Spirit has created a new heart in me, I find myself unwilling to leave the old, dead ways behind. O holy Father, forgive us; O Christ our Savior, remember your sufferings on our behalf; O Spirit of purity, hear our prayer for Jesus’ sake. and fill us with his goodness. Amen.

Absolution

Ephesians 2:11–18

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us

both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Thanksgiving Hymn Amazing Love

I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Chorus

Amazing love, how can it be
That You my King, would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

You are my King (repeat)
Jesus, You are my King (repeat)

Chorus

New Testament Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

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

I Peter 3:8-22

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

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

Response Hymn

To God Be the 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/

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

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



1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done, So loved He the world that He
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, To ev - ery be - liev - er the
 3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our re - joic - ing thro'



gave us His Son, Who yield - ed His life an a - tone - ment for sin, And o - pened the
 prom - ise of God; The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - liev - es, That mo - ment from
 Je - sus the Son; But pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be Our won - der, our



Refrain

Life - gate that all may go in.
 Je - sus a par - don re - ceives. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His
 trans - port, when Je - sus we see.



voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the



Fa - ther thro' Je - sus the Son, And give Him the glo - ry, great things He hath done.



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 Jesus Shall Reign (Verses 1-3)

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 Jesus Shall Reign (Verses 4-5)

Benediction Ephesians 2:14–16, 19–20, 22

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.... So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.... In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

D
A'
D
G
Cdim
D
A
E'
A
D

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc -
 2. To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; the pris - 'ner
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

G
D
Em
D
A
D
A7
D
G
D
A7
D

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from shore to
 thron - e to crown his head; his name, like sweet per - fume, shall
 • love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es shall pro -
 leaps to lose his chains, the wea - ry find e - ter - nal
 hon - or - s to our King; an - gels de - scend with songs a -

A
D
G
Cdim
D
Em7
D
Em
D
A7
D

shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 • claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 rest, and all the sons of want are blest.
 gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

REFLECTION

The Torn Soul of the World

We praise Christ today as the Great Reconciler. Human life, ever since our fall from innocence in Eden, has been scarred by huge pocks of alienation and anger. Eve and Adam thumb their nose at God, and immediately they are alienated from him: they hide when he comes looking for them because they fear his just displeasure. And they are alienated from each other: Adam pushes away his wife in blame, and they feel shame in their nakedness before each other. Just a myth, some would claim. But it's intriguing that while Genesis was written a couple of thousand years ago, the husband/wife dynamic it describes is the same one we know. In a 1940's essay on marriage, "The Necessary Enemy," Katherine Anne Porter, the American novelist, wrote:

This very contemporary young woman finds herself facing the oldest and ugliest dilemma of marriage. She is dismayed, horrified, full of guilt and foreboding because she is finding out little by little that she is capable of hating her husband whom she loves faithfully.

A neighbor will not talk to a neighbor for months on end because of some slight suffered; a mother lashes out in anger at a rambunctious toddler in a store, and you can practically touch the alienation between them. In 2011, when Muammar Gaddafi, was discovered hiding in a culvert in his hometown in Libya, someone posted a video of the dictator stripped to the waist and in a pool of blood, apparently suffering from a bullet wound to the head. The footage included his happy enemies, celebrating and firing automatic weapons into the air. In an alienated world, if you take the sword you are likely to die by it.

How desperately we need reconciliation—because it mends what alienation rips up: the fragile fabric of love and respect in the relationships we were created for. And how wonderfully we have reconciliation, because Christ came, and his coming has made a difference in the alienation that tears our world apart. He reconciled us to God, but he also made possible a peace between people who rage against each other.

A couple of years ago at the annual General Assembly meeting of our church, the Presbyterian Church in America, there was a most encouraging presentation of two men: one was an Israeli and the other a Palestinian. They were both believers in Messiah Jesus, and were friends, working side by side in an organization in Israel to bring Arabs and Israelis together in the name of our Great Reconciler. That was practically the best talk I heard all week, as it reminded me in a fresh way of what happens when the love of God gets loosed in human, self-seeking hearts.

Christ is at work in the world! Take heart, because it's Resurrection Morning, the day that rolls around every week when we get to celebrate the vindication of our Lord Christ for the work he did on a Roman cross to melt the hostility between us and God and to reknit the tender tissue of trust that holds people together.

—Ron Lutjens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group: Meeting tonight, August 8, 5:30-7pm at the Bishop's house (21 Green St., Milford, 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. Feel free to invite family, friends, and neighbors!

Men's Breakfast – Wednesdays at 7am, Pop's Restaurant (134 Old Gate Ln, Milford, CT 06460). We meet with no agenda or study, but to create a space for guys to form a strong community where important questions can be discussed and answered. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

Women's Bible Study – Meets next on Saturday, August 14 from 9-10:30am. 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 – We'll be meeting at the MAC (40 Railroad Ave., Milford, CT 06460) for the month of August.

Contact us

203.812.9928 | cpcmilford@gmail.com | facebook.com/CPCMilford | cpcmilford.org

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