



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

August 29, 2021  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Our Wisdom**

Jesus Christ is Lord of our minds;  
Jesus Christ is Lord  
    of our studying and learning,  
    of our investigations and theories,  
    of all that we understand,  
    of all that we do not understand.  
In him is hidden every treasure  
    of wisdom and knowledge.  
Praise be to you, O Christ—  
    You, the living Truth;  
    You, the source of every skill;  
    You, the great “I Am”  
        without beginning, without end.  
Uncreated,  
    you created the universe from nothing,  
    As agent of the Father,  
        by the Spirit’s power.  
Sanctify our minds for the rich pleasure  
    of thinking, of learning, of knowing.  
Receive our praise, fill us with wisdom,  
    that love might be served!

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### FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

#### **Gathering Hymn**

God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory

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

1. God, all na - ture sings thy glo - ry, and thy works pro - claim thy might;  
 2. Clear - er still we see thy hand in man whom thou hast made for thee;  
 3. But our sins have spoiled thine im - age; na - ture, con - science on - ly serve  
 4. God of glo - ry, pow - er, mer - cy, all cre - a - tion prais - es thee;

or - dered vast - ness in the heav - ens, or - dered course of day and night;  
 rul - er of cre - a - tion's glo - ry, im - age of thy maj - es - ty.  
 as un - ceas - ing, grim re - mind - ers of the wrath which we de - serve.  
 we, thy crea - tures, would a - dore thee now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

beau - ty in the chang - ing sea - sons, beau - ty in the storm - ing sea;  
 Mu - sic, art, the fruit - ful gar - den, all the la - bor of his days,  
 Yet thy grace and sav - ing mer - cy in thy Word of truth re - vealed  
 Saved to mag - ni - fy thy good - ness, grant us strength to do thy will;

all the chang - ing moods of na - ture praise the change - less Trin - i - ty.  
 are the call - ing of his Mak - er to the har - vest feast of praise.  
 claim the praise of all who know thee, in the blood of Je - sus sealed.  
 with our acts as with our voic - es thy com - mand - ments to ful - fill.

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light,  
 3. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - mighty, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

**Call to Worship**                    Jeremiah 10:6-7, 10, 12:

There is none like you, O LORD;

**you are great, and your name is great in might.**

Who would not fear you, O King of the nations?

**For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you.**

But the LORD is the true God;

**He is the living God and the everlasting King.**

**At his wrath the earth quakes,  
and the nations cannot endure his indignation.**

It is he who made the earth by his power,

**who established the world by his wisdom, and  
by his understanding stretched out the heavens.**

**Invocation**

**Praise Hymn**                    Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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

**Confession of Sin**

O Lord Jesus Christ,

We have not loved your appearing;

We have wandered out of the narrow way that leads to life.

Some of us have sinned boldly, presuming upon your kindness.

Others of us still fear your law, which rightly condemns us.

But we have all forsaken our first love:

not loving you with all our heart,  
our soul, our mind, our body

We have cheated, or indulged our laziness,

or hated, or held a grudge,

or lied, or felt sorry for ourselves.

We are being choked by the cares of this world:  
its passions,  
its suppression of truth,  
its hypocrisy,  
its self-assurance—  
and we have resisted so poorly.

We have neglected or despised our neighbor,  
or ourselves;  
our brothers and sisters here or elsewhere,  
or the Lord who bought us.

Forgive us Father,  
for the sake of your Beloved Son,  
who loved us and gave Himself up for us.

Forgive me dear Jesus,  
and teach me what gratitude I owe you,  
that I may love your appearing  
when you come again O My Lord. Amen.

**Absolution**                      Ephesians 3:8-12

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

**Thanksgiving Hymn**              Knowing You

All I once held dear built my life upon  
All this world reveres and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now compared to this

### **Chorus**

Knowing You Jesus knowing You  
There is no greater thing  
You're my God You're my King  
You're the reason that I sing  
And I love You Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know You more  
To be found in You and known as Yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All surpassing gift of righteousness

### **Chorus**

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like You in Your death my Lord  
So with You to live and never die

### **Chorus**

**Old Testament Lesson** Proverbs 4:5–7; Psalms 111:10

**New Testament Lesson** Colossians 2:1–10

### **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** Psalm 131

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**                      Be still my soul: a psalm of contentment | Pastor Jerry Ornelas

**Response Hymn**      Be Still My Soul

— 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/)

**Celtic Alleluia**

**Confession of Faith**                      Westminster Confession of Faith (1647), Chapter 4:

It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good.

After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after his own image; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it: and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; which while they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

**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.*

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; bear pa-tient-ly the  
 2. Be still, my soul: thy God doth un-der-take to guide the fu-ture  
 3. Be still, my soul: when dearest friends de-part, and all is dark-ened  
 4. Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on when we shall be for-

cross of grief or pain; leave to thy God to or-der and pro-vide;  
 as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con-fi-dence let noth-ing shake;  
 in the veil of tears, then shalt thou bet-ter know His love, His heart,  
 ev-er with the Lord, when dis-appoint-ment, grief, and fear are gone,

in ev-ry change He faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul: thy  
 all now mys-te-rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the  
 who comes to soothe thy sor-row and thy fears. Be still, my soul: thy  
 sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-stored. Be still, my soul: when

best, thy heav'n-ly Friend thro' thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.  
 waves and winds still know. His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.  
 Je-sus can re-pay from His own full-ness all He takes a-way.  
 change and tears are past, all safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

## 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**                  Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

REFLECTION

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**Why Think?**

The church's singular failure in recent decades has been the failure to see Christianity as a life system, or worldview, that governs every area of existence. This failure has been crippling in many ways. For one thing, we cannot answer the questions our children bring home from school, so we are incapable of preparing them to answer the challenges they face. For ourselves, we cannot explain to our friends and neighbors why we believe, and we often cannot defend our faith. And we do not know how to organize our lives correctly, allowing our choices to be shaped by the world around us. What's more, by failing to see Christian truth in every aspect of life, we miss great depths of beauty and meaning: the thrill of seeing God's splendor in the intricacies of nature or hearing his voice in the performance of a great symphony or detecting his character in the harmony of a well-ordered community.

Most of all, our failure to see Christianity as a comprehensive framework of truth has crippled our efforts to have a redemptive effect on the surrounding culture. At its most fundamental level, the so-called culture war is a clash of belief systems. It is, as Abraham Kuyper [Christian philosopher, theologian, and statesman in Holland in the late 1800's] put it, a clash of principle against principle, of worldview against worldview. Only when we see this can we effectively evangelize a post-Christian culture, bringing God's righteousness to bear in the world around us.

Evangelism and cultural renewal are both divinely ordained duties. God exercises his sovereignty in two ways: through *saving grace* and *common grace*. We are all familiar with saving grace; it is the means by which God's power calls people who are dead in their trespasses and sins to new life in Christ. As God's servants, we may at times be agents of his saving grace, evangelizing and bringing people to Christ. But few of us really understand common grace, which is the means by which God's power sustains creation, holding back the sin and evil that result from the Fall and that would otherwise overwhelm his creation like a great flood. As agents of God's common grace, we are called to help sustain and renew his creation, to uphold the created institutions of family and society, to pursue science and scholarship, to create works of art and beauty, and to heal and help those suffering from the results of the Fall.

– Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?* (1999)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group:** Meeting tonight, August 29, 5:30-7pm at the Alburger' house (97 Oxford Road 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.

**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: 899 5618 6470 | Passcode: 355978

**Sunday Worship** – We'll be meeting at the MAC (40 Railroad Ave., Milford, CT 06460) for the month of September.

**Women's Bible Study** – Meets next on Saturday, September 11th from 9-10:30am. Please RSVP to [cpcmilford@gmail.com](mailto:cpcmilford@gmail.com) for location info.

**Commissioning Service** – Save the date for September 12th, 5 PM at the Fowler Pavilion, 1 Shipyard Lane, Milford CT, 06460. We will be providing a chili potluck. Check the weekly email for additional details and the signup list.

### Contact us

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