



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

September 5, 2021
16th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Our Work

God made us with ambition, God made us with energy—
filled with a passion to live, to understand, to create and to accomplish.

Blessed be his great Name,
For the Lord has called us to work;
He has given us the stewardship of his world
And inspires us with his Spirit:
To invent, to organize, to entertain,
To buy and sell, to build, to cook,
To preach, to paint, to till, to sing, to teach—
To work, for the sake of love.
We gather to praise the Lord Almighty
For the successes of our work!
And we gather to lay the failures of our work
At the foot of Christ's cross.
Sing praise to your God as long as you live! Alleluia!

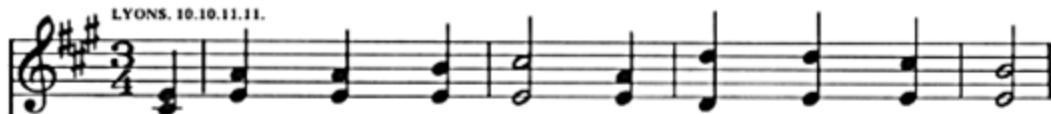
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

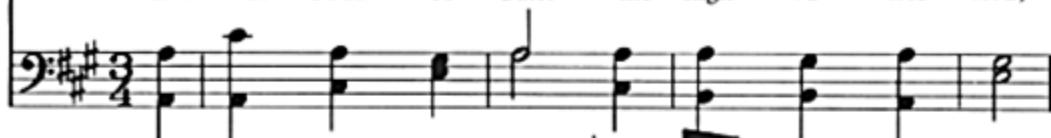
Gathering Hymn

Psalm 104A

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



1. ¹My soul, bless the LORD! LORD God, You are great!
 2. ³The beams of Your courts in wa - ters You laid;
 3. ⁵You set up the earth on foun - da - tions sure,
 4. ⁷But at Your re - buke the high wa - ters fled;



With hon - or ar - rayed, ma - jes - tic in state,
 On wings of the wind Your path - way You made.
 That al - ways it should un - shak - en en - dure.
 Your thun - der they heard and fast a - way sped.



²You cov - er Your - self with a gar - ment of light
⁴The clouds are Your char - iot; the winds do Your will;
⁶The deep like a gar - ment a - bout it You cast;
⁸The moun - tains a - rose, and the val - leys sank low;



And stretch out the sky as a cur - tain by night.
 The flames and the light - nings Your pleas - ure ful - fil.
 The wa - ters stood high; o - ver moun - tains they passed.
 The place You ap - point - ed for them now they know.



– **Work as a Gift from God: Grace from Love** –

Call to Worship from Psalm 104

Bless the LORD, O my soul! **O LORD my God, you are very great!**

You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

covering yourself with light as with a garment,

stretching out the heavens like a tent.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains;

the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the livestock **and plants for man to cultivate,**

that he may bring forth food from the earth

and wine to gladden the heart of man,

oil to make his face shine, **and bread to strengthen man's heart.**

Man goes out to his work, **and to his labor until the evening.**

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom have you made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

all: **Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!**

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 1:24–2:3; 2:15–20a

Praise Hymn Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah

Declaring the Word of the Lord

And these are the days

Of Your servant Moses

Righteousness being restored

And though these are days of great trials

Of famine and darkness and sword

Still we are the voice in the desert, crying

Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Chorus

Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call
So lift your voice
It's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days
Of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world
And we are the laborers
In Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord

Chorus

There is no God like Jehovah (repeat 6x)

Chorus

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

– Work as a Gift Misused: Sin –

New Testament Lesson A string of Pearls on work from Paul

Confession of Sin

O Father in heaven,

You have given us rich powers of thought and skill.

Made in your image, **we write, and weld, and program,
and keep house, and build, and sing, and act, and trade,
and raise families, and research, and sculpt, and sell.**

We work and play in your great world,
and enjoy the pleasures of created life.

**But we humbly confess our pride, for we are ever prone
to worship the work of our hands and heads.**

**yet you alone are Lord;
you alone satisfy the ache in our soul;
you alone are worthy of worship.**

Hear us as we confess our failures:

When we squander our talents;

When we refuse to explore our abilities and gifts our fear or laziness;

**When we throw ourselves into one great commission you gave us—to fill the
earth and subdue it— but then lose sight of your Kingdom, which in
Christ's coming broke into the world;**

**When we are condescending towards others whose tastes and cultural
sensibilities we cannot endure**

**When we despise those around us caught up in every idolatry, rather than
pray for them and love them;**

**When we lose hope that you will use our consecrated talents to make a
difference somewhere—**

O Lord, when we fail in our cultural calling,
**remember the bitter sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and forgive our pride, forgive our sloth,
forgive our diluted obediences;**

For Christ's sake cover us, O great God of mercy. Amen.

Individual Confession

– **God’s Work on Our Behalf: Grace with Pain** –

Absolution John 5:16-18, 24

And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

[Jesus said] “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

Thanksgiving Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth

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 4:7-11

This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

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

– **Work as Rededication of Our Life & Heart** –

Response Hymn O God of Earth and Altar

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

Bringing Our Life to God Prayers | Collection | Profession



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night;
3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child;
4. For Thy church that ev - er - more lifts her ho - ly hands a - bove,



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light:
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, pleas - ures pure and un - de - filed:
of - f'ring up on ev - 'ry shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love:



Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.



5. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense and sound and sight:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

6. For Thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n;
for that great, great love of Thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

NOTES

Resident Aliens: I Peter for modern Christians, I Pet 4.7-11

1. “The end of all things” (v7a)
2. How to live in “the end of all things” (what to do)
 - A. Self-disciplined Prayer (v7b)
 - B. Love each other (v8-9)
3. How to live in “the end of all things” (how to do it) (v11b)

Application: Because Christ has initiated “the end of all things”, we're called to pray, love, and use our gifts to God's glory.

1. O God of earth and al - tar, Bow down and hear our cry;
2. From all that ter - ror teach - es, From lies of tongue and pen,
3. Tie in a liv - ing teth - er The priest and prince and thrall;

Our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter; Our peo - ple drift and die;
From all the eas - y speech - es That com - fort cru - el men,
Bind all our lives to - geth - er; Smite us and save us all;

The walls of gold en - tomb us; The swords of scorn di - vide;
From sale and prof - a - na - tion Of hon - or and the sword,
In ire and ex - ul - ta - tion, A - flame with faith, and free,

Take not thy thun - der from us, But take a - way our pride.
From sleep and from dam - na - tion, De - liv - er us, good Lord!
Lift up a liv - ing na - tion, A sin - gle sword to thee. A - men.

Prayers of the People

Collection

text **MNA 1708** to **76959** and follow the prompts
or visit give.pcamna.org/to/1708/

Sinclair Alleluia

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

This Is My Father's World (Verses 1 & 2)

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

This Is My Father's World (Verse 3)

Benediction

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1. This is my Fa - ther's world, and to my lis - t'ning ears,
 2. This is my Fa - ther's world, the birds their car - ols raise,
 3. This is my Fa - ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get

all na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 the morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their Mak - er's praise.
 that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.

This is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa - ther's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the
 This is my Fa - ther's world: the bat - tle is not done; Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me ev - ery - where.
 sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heav'n be one.

REFLECTION

God and Our Work

One of the great recoveries in the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century was the biblical teaching that our work in the world during the week could be just as spiritual as our worship in church on the Sabbath—if it was honorable work, done with joy and skill, and done from the heart to the glory of God and for the well-being of others. Take these thoughts of the Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther (1483-1546), with you into your work this week and let them shape it:

“There stand God’s word and command; they apply to us as well as to St. Peter. With them God orders us to work and to do whatever our calling requires. Therefore he who looks to his calling and continues to work diligently, even if good fortune is against him and success fails to come for a while, is bound to fare well in the end. For God cannot do otherwise. He delights in obedience and blesses it with success, even though He may delay doing so for a while and may test us to see whether we intend to hold fast to His command. Therefore no one should become disgruntled or unwilling, even if, like Peter, he does fish in vain for a night.” (On Luke 5:1-11)

“We must note well the words of the Lord. He does say: Do not worry! But He does not say: Do not work! Worry is forbidden, but not work. In fact, we are commanded and enjoined so to work that the perspiration flows over our nose. God does not want man to be idle.” (On Matthew 6:24-34)

“If God did not bless, not one hair, not a solitary wisp of straw, would grow; but there would be an end of everything. At the same time God wants me to take this stand: I would have nothing whatever if I did not plow and sow. God does not want to have success come without work and yet I am not to achieve it by my work. He does not want me to sit at home, to loaf, to commit matters to God, and to wait till a fried chicken flies into my mouth. That would be tempt-ing God.” (On Exodus 13:18)

“Your work is a very sacred matter. God delights in it, and through it He wants to bestow His blessing on you. This praise of work should be inscribed on all tools, on the forehead and the face that sweat from toiling. For the world does not consider labor a blessing. Therefore it flees and hates it...But the pious, who fear the Lord, labor with a ready and cheerful heart; for they know God's command and will. Thus a pious farmer sees this verse written on his wagon and plow, a cobbler sees it on his leather and awl, a laborer sees it on wood and iron: ‘You will eat the fruit of your labor; happy you will be, and it shall be well with you.’” (On Psalm 128:2)

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 and through Sunday, October 24th.

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group: Canceled tonight to provide space for hosting Labor Day outreach parties.

Labor Day Party on Monday, September 6th: If you are not hosting a neighborhood party yourself, please join the neighborhood party at the Bishops' (21 Green St., Milford, CT 06460) at 5:00pm. Bring your own meat, a side to share, and a chair.

Commissioning Service – Sept. 12th, 5 PM at the Fowler Pavilion (1 Shipyard Lane, Milford CT, 06460). We will provide sandwiches and cake after the service. **Please RSVP** to cpcmilford@gmail.com or via the website by Sept. 5th so we can plan appropriately for food. Also, please bring your own chair if you have one.

Contact us

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