



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

September 26, 2021
19th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Returning Lord of All Things

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky,
and all the nations of the earth will mourn.
They will see the Son of Man coming
on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.
And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call,
and they will gather his elect from the four winds,
from one end of the heavens to the other.

– **Matthew 24:30-31**

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

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

Call to Worship

Antiphonal from Psalm 150

Praise the Lord! **Praise Him!**

Praise Him in his sanctuary. **Praise Him!**

Praise Him for the glory of the sky. **Praise Him according to His greatness.**

Praise Him with trumpet sound. **Praise Him with the lute and harp.**

Praise Him with drums and dance. **Praise Him with strings and flute.**

Praise Him with loud clashing cymbals. **Praise Him!**

Join ev'ry thing that breathes. **Praise Him!**

Praise the Lord! **Praise Him!**

Praise the Lord! **(all) Praise Him! Praise Him!**

1. All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2. Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of your God, who from his al - tar call;
 3. Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the fall,
 4. Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all;
 ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's rod, and crown him Lord of all;
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
 go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all;

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all.
 ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's rod, and crown him Lord of all.
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
 go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

5. Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
 on this terrestrial ball,
 to him all majesty ascribe.
 and crown him Lord of all;
 to him all majesty ascribe,
 and crown him Lord of all.

6. O that with yonder sacred throng
 we at his feet may fall;
 we'll join the everlasting song,
 and crown him Lord of all;
 we'll join the everlasting song,
 and crown him Lord of all.

Invocation

Praise Hymn All Praise To Him

All praise to Him the God of light
Who formed the mountains by His might
All praise to Him Who names the stars
That sing His fame in skies afar
All praise to Him Who reigns in love
Who guides the galaxies above
Yet bends to hear our every prayer
With sovereign pow'r and tender care

All praise to Him Whose love is seen
In Christ the Son the servant King
Who left behind His glorious throne
To pay the ransom for His own
All praise to Him Who humbly came
To bear our sorrow sin and shame
Who lived to die Who died to rise
The all-sufficient sacrifice

All praise to Him whose power imparts
The love of God within our hearts
The Spirit of all truth and peace
The fount of joy and holiness
To Father Son and Spirit now
Our souls we lift our wills we bow
To You the Triune God we raise
With loving hearts our song of praise

1st Epistle Lesson

I Thessalonians 1:2–3; 4:9–14

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

Confession of Sin

Litany of Confession and Thanksgiving

Leader: In the midst of the pain of a broken and rebellious world, caught up in the violence of war, in economic upheaval, in the devastation of flood and fire, we say to each other: “Sing, and rejoice in your God! For he has done awesome things!” He has torn us, but he will come and heal us. Let us know—let us press on to know the Lord of glory! For he who died and rose again, will return, and his Coming will be like rain that waters the earth, for those who trust him. This is the day the Lord has made!

People: We will rejoice and be glad in it! Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth—the Lord, who takes for himself a people to be light for the nations. God reconciled the world to himself, for the display of his own splendor; he made us his ambassadors, to the end that others too might be taken up, into the saving power of Christ in the Kingdom of God.

L: Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again—rejoice!

P: O Father, as often as we have brought our sins and unbelief to the cross, you have nailed them there, and freed us from our guilt. Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! His goodness is now counted ours, and the Spirit of Christ brings his resurrected life into our deadness. By your mercy: in the wasteland places of our lives and hearts, be to us like the spring rains once more.

L: It is a day to be glad! Through our Lord Jesus Christ, the infinite God has let himself be known; the High and Holy One lives with us!

ALL: It is the Lord’s Day, it is Resurrection Morning. Christ is alive—risen from the grave, never to die again! High praise to him who has loved us, and freed us from our sins! Let us know—let us press on to know the Lord! And for mercy’s sake, as surely as the sun rises he will appear.

Alleluia, and Amen

Individual Confession

Absolution

Micah 7:18–19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Thanksgiving Hymn

Resurrection Hymn (See what a Morning)

See what a morning gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem
Folded the grave-clothes tomb filled with light
As the angels announce Christ is risen
See God's salvation plan wrought in love
Borne in pain paid in sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ the Man for He lives
Christ is risen from the dead

See Mary weeping where is He laid
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb
Hears a voice speaking calling her name
It's the Master the Lord raised to life again
The voice that spans the years
Speaking life stirring hope bringing peace to us
Will sound till He appears
For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

One with the Father Ancient of Days
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty
Honour and blessing glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority
And we are raised with Him
Death is dead love has won Christ has conquered
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

2nd Epistle Lesson

I Thessalonians 4:14–5:11

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 5:6-14

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

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

Response Hymn Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

Chorus:

Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my everything
And I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor strength and glory
And power be to You the only wise King

Chorus

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power breath and living water
Such a marvelous mystery

Chorus

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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/

Celtic 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.

1. At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
 2. At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
 3. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 4. In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5. Broth - ers, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,

ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now.
 all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
 • from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true:
 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry, with his an - gel train;

'Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
 • faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour:
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

Communion Hymn

At the Name of Jesus (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.

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Coronation Hymn

At the Name of Jesus (verses 4-5)

Benediction

I Peter 5:8–11

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

NOTES

REFLECTION

Who Am I?

Consider the following short descriptions of different kinds of consciousness of self. Which of the selves, if any, do you identify with?

The Brahmin-Buddhist self. Who are you? What is your self? My self in this life is impaled on the wheel of non-being by penetrating the veil of maya and plumbing the depths of self until it achieves nirvana, nothingness, or the Brahman, God. The atman (self) is the Brahman (God).

The Christian self... The self sees itself as a creature, created by God, estranged from God by an aboriginal catastrophe, and now reconciled with him. Before the reconciliation, the self is, as Paul told the Ephesians, a stranger to every covenant, with no promise to hope for, with the world about you and no God. But now the self becomes a son of God, a member of a family of selves, and is conscious of itself as a creature of God embarked upon a pilgrimage in this life and destined for happiness and reunion with God in a later life.

The diverted self. In a free and affluent society, the self is free to divert itself endlessly from itself. It works in order to enjoy the diversions that the fruit of one's labor can purchase. The pursuit of happiness becomes the pursuit of diversion, and in this society the possibilities of diversion are endless and as readily available as eight hours of television a day: TV, sports, travel, drugs, games, newspapers, magazines, Vegas.

The lost self. With the passing of the cosmological myths [the ancient pagan myths that try to explain the world] and the fading of Christianity as a guarantor of the identity of the self, the self becomes dislocated....and is both cut loose and imprisoned by its own freedom, yet imprisoned by a curious and paradoxical bondage like a Chinese handcuff, so that the very attempts to free itself, e.g., by ever more refined techniques for the pursuit of happiness, only tighten the bondage and distance the self ever farther from the very world it wishes to inhabit as its homeland. The rational Jeffersonian pursuit of happiness embarked upon in the American Revolution translates into the flaky euphoria of the late twentieth century. Every advance in an objective understanding of the Cosmos and in its technological control further distances the self from the Cosmos precisely in the degree of the advance—so that in the end the self becomes a space-bound ghost which roams the very Cosmos it understands perfectly.

— Walker Percy, *Lost in the Cosmos* (1983)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group: Meeting tonight, September 26, 5:30-7pm at the Alburger's house, 97 Oxford Road, Milford 06460 for a picnic, Bible study and sharing time. Check the weekly email for a link to sign up to bring a dish, drink or side.

Men's Breakfast – Wednesdays at 7am, Pop's Restaurant (134 Old Gate Ln, Milford, CT 06460). We meet with no agenda but to create 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) through October 24th.

Men's & Women's Monthly Bible Study – Coming in Oct: more details to follow!

Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship – 3rd Fridays, rotating months, starts in Oct.

Contact us

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