



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

January 23, 2022  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

## REFLECTION

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### **Christ Our Brother, Dependent on God: Celebrating the Privilege and Power of Prayer**

He who was infinite and yet humbled himself  
To be born of a woman; He who took flesh as our Brother;  
Who grew as we grow; who in solidarity with us,  
Submitted to a baptism of repentance;  
Who was sorely tempted by the Evil One  
that he might be our sympathy;  
This One seeks the face of his Father in prayer—  
the heart of his Father in prayer;  
the purpose of his Father in prayer;  
the power of his Father in prayer;  
the love of his Father in prayer—  
To demonstrate his utter dependence on God.

O Lord, with joy, we pour out our hearts to you:  
Receive our praise, increase our faith,  
And teach us to pray.

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### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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**

Psalm 105:1-8

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!**

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

**Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of

Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

**He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth**

**He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded,  
for a thousand generations!**

### Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Nehemiah 1:1-11

Praise Hymn From All that Dwell Below the Skies

1. From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre -  
2. In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery  
3. E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal

a - tor's praise a - rise; let the Re - deem - er's name be  
land the strains be - long. In cheer - ful sound all voic - es  
truth at - tends your word. Your praise shall sound from shore to

sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.  
raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.  
shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

### **Confession of Sin**

From the 1585 Reformed Liturgy of the Palatinate

Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

**I, a poor sinner, acknowledge before you, my God and Creator, that I have terribly and in many ways sinned against you, not only outwardly, but much more with inward blindness, unbelief, doubts, despondency, impatience, pride, covetousness, envy, hatred, malice, and other sinful affections, as you, my Lord and God, know well, and I cannot deeply enough deplore. But I repent of these things, and am sorry for them, and heartily ask you for mercy, for the sake of your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Individual Confession**

#### **Absolution**

Hebrews 4:14–16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### **Thanksgiving 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

**New Testament Lesson** John 17:1–13

**Peace of Christ** The peace of the Lord be with you!  
**And also with you!**

**Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;  
World, without end; Amen, Amen.

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

**Sermon Text** Haggai 1:1-15

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

**Sermon** Minor Prophets for the Church | Pastor Curran Bishop

**Response Hymn** I Will Praise Him Still

When the morning falls on the farthest hill  
I will sing his name, I will praise him still.  
When dark trials come and my heart is filled  
With the weight of doubt, I will praise Him still.

## **Chorus**

For the Lord our God, he is strong to save  
From the arms of death, from the deepest grave.  
And he gave us life in his perfect will,  
And by his good grace I will praise him still.

"Know the Lord, your God leaves you not alone:  
'I will visit you, I'll restore your home.'  
For I know my plans for your hope and good:  
I'll be found in you; Be my flesh and blood

## **Chorus**

Now to you, O Lord I lift up my eyes;  
to you enthroned far above the skies  
As a servant looks to the master's hand,  
So I gaze above, trust your mighty plan

## **Chorus**

— 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/)

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread, Forgive our debts as we forgive  
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from all evil  
For Thine is the kingdom, Thine is the power  
Thine is the glory, Forever and ever

Amen amen

## **Confession of Faith**                      The Apostle's Creed (1<sup>st</sup> Century)

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**                      Blest Be The Tie That Binds (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 —

Capo 3: ♮ (D) (A<sup>7</sup>) (D) ♮ (G) (D) (A)

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love:  
2. Be - fore the Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3. We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us in - ward pain;

(A<sup>7</sup>) (D) (A) (D) ♮ (G) (D) (G) (D/A) (A<sup>7</sup>) (D) ♮

the fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

5. This glorious hope revives  
our courage by the way,  
while each in expectation lives,  
and longs to see the day.

6. From sorrow, toil and pain,  
and sin, we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity.

## Coronation Hymn

Blest Be The Tie That Binds (verses 4-6)

## Benediction

Based on Micah 5:4-5

Christ shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. May you dwell secure, for Christ is great to the ends of the earth. And may He be your peace.

# Haggai

M F Y N N N L P K H U U T S K  
D Z B P K N T F E A R E D A V  
G W L U S O W N J I T M W E M  
E G J N I N D Q Q N V G O H G  
Z Q I O L L J S A L M S X A G  
W U U L I G D N T L W I I R Y  
R Y Y U Z A M P E X X X G V W  
K D B D B E K B L Z C T Z E O  
M E F I R Y A Q L E T H Q S B  
R Q H W H B R D A R I U S T E  
J H E L B W O O D S J Z N E Y  
A N F U W I T H H E L D M D E  
F R R E Z K Y Z K H C E M D D  
K E L U L U Y Q X S I G N E T  
Z N I J N J L F F G K Y Y F E

DARIUS  
SIXTH  
ZERUBBABEL  
REBUILD  
SOWN  
HARVESTED  
RUINS  
WOOD  
BUILD  
WITHHELD  
NEW  
OBEYED  
FEARED  
REMNANT  
SIGNET

## REFLECTION

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### Prayer is More Than Asking

After Jesus had given the Disciples' Prayer, [Jones' term for the Lord's Prayer!] he told a parable about the man at midnight going to a friend and asking for bread because someone had come on a journey and he had nothing to set before him. If I were an artist painting a picture of "The Christian," I would paint this man at midnight stretching out one hand toward the Friend asking for bread, and stretching out the other hand toward the man in need. We might call him "The Mediator"—mediating between Fullness and emptiness. We might call him the "Pray-er."

Jesus gave this picture to stress the importunate [not-giving-up] side of prayer. The man hung on and got what he wanted. Prayer creates persistent personality. But lest this parable should create tense, anxious personality, Jesus corrects this in the verses following by stressing relaxed receptivity. Three times he stresses the active: "ask," "seek," "knock;" but ten times He stresses the relaxed receptive side: "will be given to you," "will find," "will be opened to you," "receives," "finds," "it will be opened," "will he give him a stone?" "will he give him a snake?" "will he offer him a scorpion?" "give the Holy Spirit." (Luke 11:5-13; Matt. 7:7-11) Here Jesus gave an emphasis of ten to three on the accepting side of prayer. But we cultivate the asking side, not the "shall be given you;" the seeking, not the "shall find;" the knocking, not the "shall be opened." We are active instead of active-taking.

In breathing, the outbreathing and the inbreathing are equal. But suppose it were all outbreathing and no inbreathing? You'd die—on a half emphasis. In prayer, you must breathe out, remind God of your need; but you must also breathe in, receive from God for your need. The rhythm of prayer: Outreach—Intake; Outreach—Intake.

— E. Stanley Jones, *The Way* (1946)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** | We'll meet tonight at the Bishops' house at 5:30pm for Bible study, food and community 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.). A space for community, important questions, and understanding. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

**Thursday 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 meet at the Fowler Building (parking at I Shipyard Ln.) at 11:00am on Jan 30 and through February.

**Men's & Women's Bible Studies** | Women meet on Saturday 1/29, men on Saturday 2/19 from 9-10:30am. Email questions for either study to [info@cpcmilford.org](mailto:info@cpcmilford.org).

**Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship** | Generally 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, rotating months: women will meet Feb.18 at 7:30pm. Details to follow. RSVP to [info@cpcmilford.org](mailto:info@cpcmilford.org).

### Contact us

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