



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

February 20, 2022  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating Christ Our Brother, In His Estate of Humiliation: Death**

The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black  
We watch him as he labours to draw breath.  
He takes our breath away to give it back,  
Return it to its birth through his slow death.  
We hear him struggle, breathing through the pain,  
Who once breathed out his spirit on the deep,  
Who formed us when he mixed the dust with rain  
And drew us into consciousness from sleep.  
His Spirit and his life he breathes in all,  
Mantles his world in his one atmosphere,  
And now he comes to breathe beneath the pall  
Of our pollutions, draw our injured air  
To cleanse it and renew. His final breath  
Breathes and bears us through the gates of death.

— Malcolm Guite

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### SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

#### **Gathering Hymn**

There is a Fountain Filled with Blood

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

Capo 1: ♮ (A) (D) (A) (D) (A) 7 (D) (A) (E)

1. There is a foun - tain filled with blood, drawn from Im - man - uel's veins;  
 2. The dy - ing thief re - joiced to see that foun - tain in his day;  
 3. E'er since by faith I saw the stream your flow - ing wounds sup - ply,  
 4. Then in a no - bler, sweet - er song I'll sing your pow'r to save,  
 5. Dear dy - ing Lamb, your pre - cious blood shall nev - er lose its pow'r,

(A) (D) (A) (D) (A) (E<sup>7</sup>) (A)

and sin - ners, plunged be - neath that flood, lose all their guilt - y stains:  
 and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins a - way:  
 • re - deem - ing love has been my theme, and shall be till I die:  
 when this poor lisp - ing, stam - m'ring tongue lies si - lent in the grave:  
 till all the ran - somed church of God be saved to sin no more:

(E<sup>7</sup>) (A) (D) (A) (D) (A) (E)

lose all their guilt - y stains, lose all their guilt - y stains;  
 washed all my sins a - way, washed all my sins a - way;  
 • and shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;  
 lies si - lent in the grave, lies si - lent in the grave;  
 be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more;

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

and sin - ners, plunged be - neath that flood, lose all their guilt - y stains.  
 and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins a - way.  
 • re - deem - ing love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.  
 when this poor lisp - ing, stam - m'ring tongue lies si - lent in the grave.  
 till all the ran - somed church of God be saved to sin no more.

## Call to Worship

Psalm 16:8-11

I have set the LORD always before me;

**because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken**

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;  
my flesh also dwells secure.

**For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.**

You make known to me the path of life;

**in your presence there is fullness of joy;**

**at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

## Invocation

**Old Testament Lesson** Isaiah 52:13–53:12

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## Praise Hymn

O Praise the Name

I cast my mind to Calvary  
Where Jesus bled and died for me  
I see His wounds His hands His feet  
My Savior on that cursed tree  
His body bound and drenched in tears  
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone  
Messiah still and all alone

## Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God; O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise; Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Then on the third at break of dawn  
The Son of heaven rose again  
O trampled death where is your sting  
The angels roar for Christ the King

## **Chorus**

He shall return in robes of white  
The blazing sun shall pierce the night  
And I will rise among the saints  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

## **Chorus**

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

## **Confession of Sin**                      based on Isaiah 53

O Lord, forgive me; for I have despised and forsaken you.  
It was I who made you a man of sorrows,  
and acquainted with grief  
It was I who hid my face from you;  
I despised you, and counted you nothing.

O Lord, you yourself bore my griefs, and carried my sorrows;  
I counted you stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But you were wounded for my transgressions;  
you were crushed for my sins.  
The Chastening for my well-being fell upon you;  
and it was by your scourging that I am healed.

Like a foolish sheep, I have gone astray;  
I have turned - like all the rest - to my own way.  
But the Lord has laid on you every bit of my guilt.  
Have mercy on me, Lord Jesus, for I am grieved by my offenses.  
Amen.

## **Individual Confession**

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down;  
 2. What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:  
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est Friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
 for this, thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;  
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
 look on me with thy fa - vor, vouch - safe to me thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

**Absolution** Galatians 3:13–14

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

**Thanksgiving Hymn** O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

**New Testament Lesson** Mark 15:16–37, 43-46

**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** Zechariah 9:1-4, 8-17

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

**Response Hymn** Arrival

Who is God that He would take our frame  
The artisan inside the paint  
Or breathe the very air His breath sustains  
The architect inside the plan

**Chorus**

Oh come now hail His arrival, The God of creation;  
Royalty robed in the flesh He created  
Jesus the Maker has made Himself known; All hail the infinite infant God

The One who had no start and knows no end  
Became confined in time and tense  
The everlasting God the Great I Am  
In the mercy of a mother's hands

### **Chorus**

Oh come now hail His arrival, The God of creation;  
Royalty robed in the flesh He created  
Jesus the Maker has made Himself known; All hail the infinite infant God

Holy Word of God defined by name  
The Author climbed inside the page  
He knew his death would set us sinners free  
He lived and died, for you and me

### **Chorus**

The One who holds the stars, In the creases of His hands  
Is the One who holds my heart, Like a mother once held Him  
The One who knows what lies, Where space has run its course  
Embraced a baby's mind, And now I can know my God

The monarch of the stars, The King above all kings  
The ruler of my heart, And the Saviour for my sins  
The One who sees what lies, In each and ev'ry soul  
Embraced our finite eyes, And now we can see our God

### **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/)

## **Sinclair Alleluia**

Alleluia! (x8)

## **Confession of Faith**

Westminster Larger Catechism (1647), Question 49

How did Christ humble himself in his death?

**Christ humbled himself in his death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by his disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by his persecutors; having also conflicted with the terrors of death, and the powers of darkness, felt and borne the weight of God's wrath, he laid down his life an offering for sin, enduring the painful, shameful, and cursed death of the cross.**

## **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**

Christ Jesus Lay is Death's Strong Bands (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**

Christ Jesus Lay is Death's Strong Bands (Verses 4-5)

## **Benediction**

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands For our of - fens - es  
 2 It was a strange and dread - ful strife When life and death con -  
 3 Here the true Pas - chal Lamb we see, Whom God so free - ly  
 4 So let us keep the fes - ti - val To which the Lord in -

giv - en; But now at God's right hand he stands And brings us life  
 tend - ed; The vic - to - ry re - main - ed with life, The reign of death  
 gave us; He died on the ac - curs - ed tree— So strong his love—  
 vites us; Christ is him - self the joy of all, The sun that warms

from heav - en. There - fore let us joy - ful be And sing to God right  
 was end - ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly says That death is swal - low - ed  
 to save us. See, his blood now marks our door; Faith points to it; death  
 and lights us. Now his grace to us im - parts E - ter - nal sun - shine

thank - ful - ly Loud songs of hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 up by death, Its sting is lost for - ev - er. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 pass - es o'er, And Sa - tan can - not harm us. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 to our hearts; The night of sin is end - ed. Hal - le - lu - jah!

5 Then let us feast this Easter Day  
 On Christ, the bread of heaven;  
 The Word of grace has purged away  
 The old and evil leaven.

Christ alone our souls will feed;  
 He is our meat and drink indeed;  
 Faith lives upon no other!  
 Hallelujah!

## REFLECTION

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In this sonnet [opening reflection], one of the 15 I wrote meditating on Christ's final breath, I return to and draw on the words in George Herbert's poem 'Prayer': 'God's breath in man returning to his birth'.

Herbert's poem invites us into a very early tradition of prayer and meditation rooted in a reflection on the image of breath and breathing in the Bible. The two biblical languages, Hebrew and Greek, use a single word to mean both 'breath' and 'spirit'. 'God's breath in man' evokes that primal image in Genesis of God breathing the breath of life into humanity, the moment of our waking as living beings, a moment of tender closeness to our Maker. But after that inspiration comes the equally decisive moment of expiration. We have to trace our history through fall and alienation, pain, sin and death, at last to the foot of the cross where a second Adam, one in whom also the whole of humanity is bound and involved, stretches out his arms to embrace the pain of the world and breathes back to God that gift of life: 'Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last' (Luke 23.46).

Then we must look beyond the cross, to the resurrection and the new breath of life that comes with the sending of the Holy Spirit. John's account consciously parallels the first gift of the breath of life in Genesis: 'When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit"' (John 20.22).

Contained in the pattern of our breathing is the whole story of our salvation. For a Christian in prayer the very act of breathing can become a return to our birth: a receiving of original life from the breath of God, as we breathe in with Adam in the garden of our beginnings; an offering of all that needs letting go and redeeming as we breathe out with Christ on the cross; a glad acceptance of new life in the Holy Spirit as we breathe in again receiving our life and commission afresh from the risen Lord.

At the end of the sonnet I return to the image I had hinted at in the cleansing of the temple, that as Jesus breathed his last the veil in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. A barrier has been broken, a gate has been opened. We are through at last.

– Malcolm Guite, *Word in the Wilderness*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** | We'll meet tonight at the Bishops' house at 5:30pm for a Bible Study & meal. Check weekly email for a sign up link 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, coworkers 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 through February. We'll be back at the Milford Arts Council through March.

**Men's & Women's Bible Studies** | Men meet next in March, women on Saturday 2/26 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: the men will meet in March. Details to follow. RSVP to [info@cpcmilford.org](mailto:info@cpcmilford.org).

### Contact us

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