



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

March 27, 2022
4th Sunday of Lent

REFLECTION

Descent to the Cross: I Am the Way, the Truth, the Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;
Such a Way as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
And such a Life, as killeth death.

— George Herbert (1593-1633)

FORTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

Holy Holy Holy / Santo! Santo! Santo!

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty
Early in the morning my song shall rise to thee
Holy, holy, holy, Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Santo! Santo! Santo! Deus onipotente!
Cedo de manhã cantaremos teu louvor.
Santo! Santo! Santo! Deus Jeová triúno,
És um só Deus, excelso Criador.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Santo! Santo! Santo! Deus onipotente!
Tuas obras louvam teu nome com fervor.
Santo! Santo! Santo! Justo e compassivo,
És um só Deus, supremo Criador.

Call to Worship

Acts 4:10b–12

By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified,
whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.

**This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you,
the builders, which has become the cornerstone.**

And there is salvation in no one else,

**for there is no other name under heaven given
among men by which we must be saved.**

Invocation

Praise Hymn

Psalms 46

God is our refuge, our strength, and our shield
An ever-present help
We will not fear, though the earth gives way
And the mountains crash into the sea

Chorus

There is a river whose streams will make glad
The city of our Most High King
God is within her; she will not fail
He helps her at break of the day

Nations in uproar; men's kingdoms, they fall
He speaks and the earth melts away
The worst we imagine, the strongest of storms
Our Fortress, He will still remain

Chorus

Come let us see what the Lord has done
The ruin He brings to the earth
He makes wars to cease to the ends of the earth
He shatters the bow and the spear

Ending

There is a river whose streams will make glad
The city of our Most High King
God is within her; she will not fail
Listen and hear the Lord say
Be still and know that I am God

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

Old Testament Lesson Numbers 21:4–9

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

Confession of Sin

Search me O God, and know my heart;

Test me, and know my anxious thoughts.

See if there is any offensive way in me,

And lead me in the way everlasting.

Have mercy on me O God,
according to your unfailing love.

**Wash away all my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Create in me a pure heart O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

[All] **May the words of my mouth,
and the meditation of my heart,
be pleasing in your sight O Lord,
my Rock and my Redeemer.**

—Psalms 139:23-24; 51:1a,2,10; 19:14

Individual Confession

Absolution

John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

1. Re - joice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King a - dore! Re -
 2. Je - sus the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love; when
 3. His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n; the
 4. He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit, and
 5. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, and

REFRAIN

joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
 • keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n. Lift up your
 bow to his com - mand, and fall be - neath his feet.
 take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

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/

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me, when you come into Your Kingdom (4x)

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed (AD 325)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

*the universal Christian Church in all times and places

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

The Love Of Christ Is Rich And Free

The love of Christ is rich and free
Fixed on His own eternally
Nor earth nor hell can it remove
Long as He lives His own He'll love

His loving heart engaged to be
Their everlasting surety
'Twas love that took their cause in hand
And love maintains it to the end

Chorus

Love cannot from its post withdraw
Nor death nor hell nor sin nor law
Can turn the surety's heart away
He'll love His own to endless day

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood
And love will bring them safe to God
Love calls them all from death to life
And love will finish all their strife.

He loves through every changing scene,
Nor aught from Him can Zion wean;
Not all the wanderings of her heart
Can make His love for her depart.

Chorus

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

The Love Of Christ Is Rich And Free (Verse 5)

At death beyond the grave He'll love
In endless bliss His own shall prove
The blazing glory of that love
Which never could from them remove

Chorus

Benediction

from Revelation 22

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star. The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

HOLY WEEK/ EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Worship | 4/10, 10:30am, Milford Arts Council

Maundy Thursday Liturgical Meal | 4/14, 6pm, Bishop & Alburger houses

Good Friday Worship Service | 4/15, 12pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Milford

Easter Sunday | 4/17:

- * **Sunrise Worship Service** | 6:30am, Wildermere Beach Church
- * **Congregational Breakfast** | 8:30am, Milford Arts Council
- * **Easter Egg Hunt** | 9am, Milford Arts Council
- * **Square Dancing** | 9:30am, Milford Arts Council
- * **Worship Service** | 10:30am, Milford Arts Council

Mark 1 A

S Y L M J Q M S T L E O Q M S J X J C G
Z O T C T G J I Q N J M T Z R R S L B O
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S V E G M S Z V R B V B T H B T J G V R

BEGINNING
GOSPEL
JESUS
SON
ISAIAH
VOICE
PREPARE
NOW
HONEY
WATER
SPIRIT
DOVE
WILDERNESS
REPENT

REFLECTION

Who Is He?

It would be easier, I sometimes think, if God had given us a set of ideas to mull over and kick around and decide whether to accept or reject. He did not. He gave us himself in the form of a person.

“Jesus saves,” announce the bumper stickers—imagine how ridiculous it would sound if you substituted Socrates or Napoleon or Marx. The Buddha gave his disciples permission to forget him as long as they honored his teaching and followed his path. Plato said, something similar of Socrates. Jesus, though, pointed to himself and said “**I am the way**”....

It is an incontestable fact of history that Jesus’ followers, the same ones who were scratching their heads over his words at the Last Supper, a few weeks later were proclaiming him as the “Holy and Righteous One,” the “Lord,” the “author of life.” By the time the Gospels were written they regarded him as the Word who was God, through whom all things were made. In a later letter John took pains to point out “**That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.**” The book of Revelation describes Jesus as a blazing figure whose face “**was like the sun shining in all its brilliance,**” but always the author connected this Cosmic Christ to the actual Galilean man the disciples had heard and seen and touched.

Why would Jesus’ disciples invent these notions? Followers of Mohammed or Buddha, willing to lay down their lives for their master, did not make such a jump in logic. Why would Jesus’ disciples, so slow to accept it themselves, require of us a belief so difficult to swallow? Why make it harder rather than easier to accept Jesus?

The alternative to a conspiracy theory regarding Jesus himself, as the source of the audacious claims, only magnifies the problem. As I read through the Gospels, I sometimes try to view them as an outsider might, in the same way I read the Qur’an of the Upanishads. When I take up that perspective I find myself repeatedly startled, even offended, by the arrogance of one who says, “**I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**” I can read only a few pages before stumbling across one of these statements that seem outlandishly to undercut all his wise teaching and good deeds. If Jesus is not God, then he is badly deluded.

—Philip Yancey in *The Jesus I Never Knew* (1995).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group | Tonight (March 27th) we will join Pastor Henrique's church, Christ Is Life PCA for their worship service at 6pm at 2475 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield CT 06825.

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. 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 Milford Arts Council (40 Railroad Ave) at 10:30am through Easter (April 17).

Holy Week / Easter Schedule | see page 9 above.

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | Men meet next on Saturday 4/2, women on 4/23, from 9-10:30am. Email questions for either study to info@cpcmilford.org.

Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship | Generally 3rd Fridays, rotating months: the women will meet April 8th. Additional details TBD. RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org.

Contact us

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