



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

May 8, 2022
4th Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

Celebrating the Risen Christ as the Resurrection Community of Justice

Christ the Son came into the world to die,
That divine justice might be satisfied
In the punishment of sinners at the cross;
And he rises again
To destroy the oppressive power of Death that tyrannizes us.
He comes to start a new race,
To restore the shattered image of God
In the sons of Adam and daughters of Eve.
But he comes too, to restore to the wide world
Its lost peace and love and beauty and justice.
Blessed is the Lamb on his throne,
The One who even now is making all things new!
Bless him in the highest heaven;
Bless him you sons and daughters of the New Creation;
He who was dead lives again!
He is in and among us, and calls us together:
To bear witness to his tenderness and power;
To pray to his sovereign Father and ours;
To practice justice by defending the God-given rights
Of the widow, the orphan,
the immigrant, the child, the disabled person.
Sing the praise of the living Lord of the everlasting Kingdom!

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + **Easter** + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

The Day of Resurrection

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

r 7

1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
 2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
 3. Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
 let the round world keep tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from this world to the sky,
 and lis - ening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 in - vis - i - ble and vis - i - ble, their notes let all things blend,

r 7

our Christ hath brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain,
 for Christ the Lord hath ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

Call to Worship Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you?

**To do justice, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God.**

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 58:6-10

Praise Hymn My Soul Cries Out

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

Confession of Sin based on Amos 2 and Proverbs 31

O Lord, we confess that we have sold the righteous for silver,
and the needy for a pair of sandals—

That we trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth
and turn aside the way of the afflicted;

We pervert the sexuality which you have given us as a gift,
so that Your holy name is profaned;

We lay ourselves down beside every idol: money, sex, power, security, possessions;

We build our sense of security on the backs of the poor,

And we pervert your Church with our self-centeredness.

We become drunk with our self-importance and forget what has been decreed;

And pervert the rights of the afflicted.

We do not open our mouth for the mute,

for the rights of all who are destitute,

or defend the rights of the poor and needy.

O Lord, we confess that we are all poor and needy.

But in our material wealth we have become proud,

and look down on those who would teach us humility,

and dependence on You.

Forgive us, O Lord, we cry! Amen.

Em C D Em

1 My _____ soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my
 2 Though _____ I am small, my _____ God, my all, you _____ work great _____
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who

C D Em G

heart is great, and my spir - it _____ sings of the won - drous _____
 things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the
 left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice _____
 holds us fast: God's _____ mer - cy _____ must de - liv - er _____

D Em C Em G

things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your
 past to the end of the age to be. Your ver - y
 tears ev - ery ty - rant _____ from his throne. The hun - gry
 us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing

D Em

sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you
 name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would
 poor shall _____ weep no more for the food they can
 word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which

Absolution

Psalm 51:15–17

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Thanksgiving Hymn

Even So Come

All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Every heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let every nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus

There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus

New Testament Lesson John 3:16-17; Romans 3:22-25, 6:23;
Ephesians 2:8-9; Revelation 21:1–5

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 Mark 3:13-21, 31-35

Sermon Mark: The King and the Cross | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Jesus Is Alive

There is now a hope that lasts beyond our days
For the One that once was buried lives again
Now the tomb is bare and empty
And the stone is rolled away
Praise the risen One who overcame the grave

Chorus

Let there be dancing in the darkness
And let our song break through the night
Lift your voice and sing that Christ is King
For Jesus is alive
All you brokenhearted all you worn and weak
Come find living water everlasting streams
To the wandering spirit
Lost and searching wanting something more
Find the risen King who overcomes the world

Chorus

No more condemnation no more doubt and fear
For our sin and shame they have no power here
In His resurrection
Perfect love has set the captives free
Praise the risen King who stands in victory

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/

Sinclair Alleluia

Confession of Faith Belgic Confession, Article 20: The Justice and Mercy of God in Christ

We believe that God—who is perfectly merciful and also very just—sent the Son to assume the nature in which the disobedience had been committed, in order to bear in it the punishment of sin by his most bitter passion and death. So God made known his justice toward his Son, who was charged with our sin, and he poured out his goodness and mercy on us, who are guilty and worthy of damnation, giving to us his Son to die, by a most perfect love, and raising him to life for our justification, in order that by him we might have immortality and eternal life.

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 in Death's Strong Bands (Verses 1-4)

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 in Death’s Strong Bands (Verses 5-6)

Benediction

Psalm 96 & Jude 24–25

Now to him—who will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness—who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. 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 - mained 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 - lowed
 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

Justice as Good News of the Kingdom

As people committed to the historic faith of Christianity, we have forgotten how to be a witness of Christ's love, power and justice in the world. In generations past the great leaders of Christian revival in North America and Great Britain were consumed by a passion to declare the gospel and to manifest Christ's compassion and justice. But somewhere during the twentieth century some of us have simply stopped believing that God actually can use us to answer the prayers of children, women and families who suffer under the hand of abusive power or authority in their communities. We sit in the same paralysis of despair as those who don't even claim to know a Savior—and in some cases, we manifest even less hope.

In response this book has one simple message: it need not be this way. We can recover a witness of Christian courage in a world of injustice. We can rediscover our Maker's passions for the world and for justice—passions that may have grown unfamiliar to us. We can come to know the compassion of Jesus like never before as we go with him to look into the eyes of those who are in need of rescue. Moreover, we can be restored to the conviction that God is prepared to use us to “seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:17).

Fundamentally, therefore, this book is offered as a testimonial, a reflection of what I have been learning about the world and about my Maker. And there has been much I've needed to learn. To be honest, few people could have grown up farther from the realities of injustice and oppression in our world than I did. I was raised in a wonderfully happy home. My loving family lived in an affluent suburb in a civil society—for which I am, frankly, enormously grateful. The realities of terror, oppression, abuse and injustice were kept far from my door. Not surprisingly, I came to understand God in ways that fit my experience. God seemed intensely interested in my life of personal piety and seemed most needed as a Savior from the only negative eventuality which I could not control—death. This is an oversimplification, of course, because I had the entire biblical revelation to draw on, but it serves to illustrate how relatively little I knew about a holy God who spent his days weeping beside children in brothels, prisoners in pain or orphans in trauma—a God whose core hatred of injustice was rivaled only by his hatred of idolatry.

—from *Good News About Injustice*, Gary Haughen (1999)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group | Meeting tonight at 5:30 at the Bishops' house for a Bible study and community meal. Signup to bring a dish, drink, or side on the link in the weekly email.

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

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | Men meet next on Saturday 5/14, women on 5/28, 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 men will meet May 27th. Additional details TBD. RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org.

Contact us

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