



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

May 15, 2022
5th Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

Celebrating the Risen Christ as the Resurrection Community of Suffering

Raised from a corruptible body to an indestructible life,
Jesus Christ now invites those who would be his followers
to share not only in his resurrection power
but also in his crucifixion weakness.

So far from finding it a surprise,
the apostolic church counted it a great privilege
to suffer on this side of the empty tomb,
standing in solidarity with the Suffering Servant.

Afflicted but not crushed, Perplexed but not despairing,
Persecuted but not broken, struck down but not destroyed
We carry around in our bodies the dying of Jesus,
so that his exquisite life may be seen
to animate our broken bodies until he comes again.

**Dying, we live;
Suffering, we worship.
Alleluia!**

.....

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Gathering Hymn

Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name, In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow, Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name, When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness, Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord, Still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name, When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be, Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name, On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering, Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus and Chorus

You give and take away, You give and take away
My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name

Chorus

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

Call to Worship

from Psalm 30

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

By your favor, O LORD,

you made my mountain stand strong;

you hid your face; **I was dismayed.**

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,

and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment,

and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night,

but joy comes with the morning.

You have turned my mourning into dancing;

you have loosed my sackcloth, and clothed me with gladness,

that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Invocation

Praise Hymn

All I Have is Christ

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still

Chorus

Hallelujah all I have is Christ
Hallelujah Jesus is my life

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

Chorus

Now Lord I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
O Father use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You

Chorus

Old Testament Lesson Psalms 31:1–16

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, merciful father:

I, a poor miserable sinner,

confess to you all my sins and selfishness

with which I have offended you, and for which

I justly deserve your immediate and eternal punishment.

I am deeply sorry for them, and sincerely let go of them now.

I reject my sins, O Lord; teach me to despise them.

I ask you, of your boundless mercy, and for the sake

of the holy, innocent, and bitter sufferings and death

of your beloved son, Jesus Christ:

 Be gracious and merciful to me,

 a poor sinful being; forgive me,

 and quiet my accusing conscience,

 by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Hear me O my Father. Amen.

Individual Confession

Absolution

Hebrews 10:10–14

And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Thanksgiving Hymn

Be Still My Soul

New Testament Lesson Luke 6:1–13, 20–31

Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; bear pa-tient-ly the
 2. Be still, my soul: thy God doth un-der-take to guide the fu-ture
 3. Be still, my soul: when dearest friends de-part, and all is dark-ened
 4. Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on when we shall be for-

cross of grief or pain; leave to thy God to or-der and pro-vide;
 as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con-fi-dence let noth-ing shake;
 in the veil of tears, then shalt thou bet-ter know His love, His heart,
 ev-er with the Lord, when dis-appoint-ment, grief, and fear are gone,

in ev-ry change He faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul: thy
 all now mys-te-rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the
 who comes to soothe thy sor-row and thy fears. Be still, my soul: thy
 sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-stored. Be still, my soul: when

best, thy heav'n-ly Friend thro' thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
 waves and winds still know. His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.
 Je-sus can re-pay from His own full-ness all He takes a-way.
 change and tears are past, all safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

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 Mark 4:1-20

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

Response Hymn Wood and Nails

O humble carpenter down on your hands and knees
Look on your handiwork and build a house
So you may dwell in Me
So you may dwell in Me

Chorus

The work was done with nothing but wood and nails
In Your scar-borne hands
O show me how to work and praise
Trusting that I am Your instrument

O loving laborer with the sweat upon your face
O build a table that I too may join you
In the father's place
Oh in the Father's place

Chorus

The kingdom's come and built upon
Wood and nails gripped with joyfulness
So send me out within Your ways
Knowing that the task is finished

The dead will rise and give You praise
Wood and nails will not hold them down

These wooden tombs, we'll break them soon
And fashion them into flower beds

The curse is done, the battle won
Swords bent down into plowshares
Your scar-borne hands, we'll join with them
Serving at the table You've prepared

— 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/

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 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 Beneath the Cross of Jesus (Verses 1-2)

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 Beneath the Cross of Jesus (Verse 3)

Benediction 1 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.

1. Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
2. Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see
3. I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place:

the shad - ow of a might - y Rock with - in a wea - ry land;
the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess,
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and the bur - den of the day,
the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

REFLECTION

On Jesus' Resurrection and Our Suffering

“...I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and **I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions**, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness...”
—Colossians 1:24-27

Paul assigns a reason why he is joyful in his sufferings: that he is in this matter a partner with Christ, and nothing happier can be desired than this partnership. He also brings forward a consolation common to all the godly, that in all tribulations, especially in so far as they suffer anything for the sake of the Gospel, they are partakers of the cross of Christ, so that they may enjoy fellowship with Him in the blessed resurrection.

More, he declares that there is thus filled up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ. As he says in Romans 8:29, “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” Moreover, we know that there is so great a unity between the Head and the members that the name of Christ sometimes includes the whole body, as in I Corinthians 12:12. For while discoursing there on the Church, Paul concludes at length that in Christ the same thing holds as in the human body. As, therefore, Christ has suffered once in His own Person, so He suffers daily in His members, and in this way there are filled up those sufferings which the Father has by this decree appointed for His Body.

There is a second consideration which ought to bear up and comfort our minds in afflictions, that it is fixed and determined by the providence of God that we shall be conformed to Christ by bearing the cross, and that the fellowship that we have with Him extends to this also.

Paul adds also a third reason that his sufferings are fruitful, and that not only to a few, but to the whole Church. He had previously stated that he suffered for the sake of the Colossians, and he now declares further that the fruit extends to the whole Church.... What could be clearer, less forced, or more simple, than the explanation that Paul is joyful in persecution because he considers (as he writes elsewhere) that we must carry about in our body the dying of Christ, so that His life may be manifested in us?

—John Calvin, *Commentary on Colossians* (1548)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group | Meeting tonight at 5:30 at the Alburger's house for a 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

Healing Service | 7:30pm, with Christ Pres Fairfield (3160 Park Ave. Bridgeport, CT). A service for those who desire Christ's healing power over any physical, emotional, or relational affliction.

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | Women meet next on Saturday 5/28, men on 6/11, 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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