



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

May 3, 2020  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

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Responding to Coronavirus as individual Christians:

**Be Wise:** Practice good hygiene and cleanliness. If you're sick, stay home, and take an abundance of caution. Regularly wash your hands. Make wise decisions about travel, avoid large events. Consult the CDC for more information on how to prepare and be safe.

**Be Calm:** In Philippians 4 Paul says that in times of uncertainty and suffering we should be “anxious for nothing.” When he wrote those words, he was following Jesus’ lead (Matthew 6.25-34) in reminding us that our hope in this world is not in human economies, or medicine, or technology, or cleanliness. Our hope is in Lord, the maker of Heaven and Earth (Psalm 121). So, if you're feeling anxious or afraid over the coming weeks, remember that the God who watches over you is a God who does not slumber or sleep. He promises that He will watch over your life; your coming in and going out both now and forevermore.

**Be thoughtful:** Keep in mind that certain people will be impacted more than others: Be aware of those who may be “shut-in” and alone. Take a moment to think about people who might inadvertently become “invisible” and be intentional about reaching out to them.

- Be aware of our older generation and the risks that are more relevant to them as related to the virus. Be intentional about checking up with them.
- Be aware of our neighbors, especially those who may be alone and/or have special needs in this context. This is a moment when the love and mercy of Christ can shine through you!
- Local businesses can absorb losses from people staying home less than big national chains. If you are able buy stuff from them, do so.
- People who work on hourly wages and those who rely on tips will probably be hurt more than those on salary. Be aware of who is confronting this and find ways to help.
- Health care workers: lots of people will be showing up at hospitals etc. to be checked or treated. Nurses, doctors and support staff will be pulling multiple extra shifts. Write them notes. Let them know how thankful you are for them.

**Be Prayerful:** Scripture teaches that Prayer is action and when it is done through faith in Christ, the Lord can use it to move mountains and heal diseases. Therefore, let's join together during this time to pray for the Lord to guide our officials, equip our medical professionals, comfort the sick, shield the healthy, and arrest this virus from causing more harm.

Historically, Christians have been known as people of love and compassion in times of disease and illness. When smallpox came to Rome most fled to the countryside, while Christians remained in the city to care for the sick and needy. When Romans evicted their infected loved ones out of their homes, Christians were the ones who invited them in to care for them. Of course, we want to proceed with caution and wisdom in the days to come. Yet, the Church has had some of her finest moments in situations like this. Let's pray and look for opportunities to be the Presence of Christ in Milford, His means of responding with love and grace to this crisis.

## REFLECTION

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### **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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### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.

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

### **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

**Praise Hymn** My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

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

did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - ery  
holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*Refrain* G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

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

**Old Testament Lesson**    Isaiah 58:6-10

**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.

**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

# The Church's One Foundation

1. The church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
 2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3. Tho' with a scornful wonder, men see her sore oppressed,  
 4. The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord, to defend,  
 5. 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
 6. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,

she is His new creation, by water and the Word;  
 her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
 to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;  
 she waits the consummation of peace for evermore;  
 and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.

from heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
 one holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
 yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
 tho' there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,  
 till with the vision glorious her long-ing eyes are blest,  
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,

with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.  
 and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.  
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.  
 against the foe or traitor she ev'ry shall prevail.  
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

## **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 —

## **New Testament Lesson** Acts 1:1-14

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

It's not about me | Pastor Curran Bishop

## **Response Hymn** Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the Word of the Lord  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant Moses  
Righteousness being restored  
And though these are days  
Of great trials  
Of famine and darkness and sword  
Still we are the voice  
In the desert crying  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

## **Chorus**

Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds  
Shining like the sun  
At the trumpet call  
So lift your voice  
It's the year of Jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel  
The dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant David  
Rebuilding a temple of praise  
And these are the days of the harvest  
The fields are as white in the world  
And we are the laborers  
In Your vineyard  
Declaring the Word of the Lord

## **Chorus**

There is no God like Jehovah (repeat 6x)

## **Chorus**

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

## **Bringing Our Life to God**

Profession | Collection | Prayers

## **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.

## Prayers of the People |

### Collection

### Alleluia

The musical score is written for three voices: Alto, Tenor, and Bass. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The tempo is marked *f* (forte). The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ia." The score includes a first ending marked "(1st time: D.C.)" and "Fine", followed by a double bar line and the instruction "to verse".

**Alto** *f*  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al -

**Tenor**  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ia.

**Bass** *f*  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ia.

(1st time: D.C.)  
*Fine* || to verse

## **Communion in Christ Jesus**

*All Christians are invited to join us to receive Christ's presence of bread and wine. During this time of social distancing we offer for our pastor to come and bless your partaking of elements you provide to preserve the corporate-presence of Christ pictured in the supper as best we can. If you've been part of our streaming service please text Curran (203-812-9928) to set up a time he can meet you (from a distance) to celebrate communion.*

## **Lamentation**

### **Communion Hymn**

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

### **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 —

### **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.

### **Coronation Hymn**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

## **Announcements**

# All the Way My Savior Leads Me

*He goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.*  
John 10:4

1. All the way my Sav-ior leads me; what have I to ask be-side?  
 2. All the way my Sav-ior leads me, cheers each wind-ing path I tread,  
 3. All the way my Sav-ior leads me— O the ful-ness of his love!

Can I doubt his ten-der mer-cy, who through life has been my guide?  
 gives me grace for ev-'ry tri-al, feeds me with the liv-ing bread.  
 Per-fect rest to me is prom-ised in my Fa-ther's house a-bove:

Heav'n-ly peace, di-vin-est com-fort, here by faith in him to dwell;  
 Though my wea-ry steps may fal-ter, and my soul a-thirst may be,  
 when my spir-it, clothed, im-mor-tal, wings its flight to realms of day,

for I know, what-e'er be-fall me, Je-sus do-eth all things well; well.  
 gush-ing from the rock be-fore me, lo, a spring of joy I see; see!  
 this my song through end-less a-ges: Je-sus led me all the way; way!

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 302

Psalm 46

EIN FESTE BURG



1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;  
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,  
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threaten to un - do us,  
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs no thanks to them a - bid - eth;



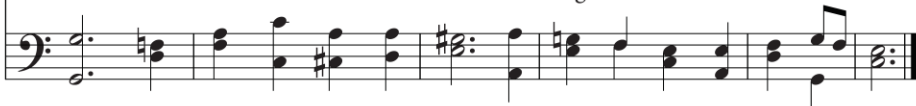
our help - er He, a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.  
 were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choos - ing.  
 we will not fear, for God has willed His truth to tri - umph through us.  
 the Spir - it and the gifts are ours thro' Him who with us sid - eth.



For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are  
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; LORD Sab - a - oth His  
 The prince of dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en -  
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may



great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 name, from age to age the same; and He must win the bat - tle.  
 dure, for lo! his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 kill: God's truth a - bid - eth still; His king - dom is for - ev - er.



## REFLECTION

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## 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)

# WE ARE A LOCAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## **Local**

We are a church in and for our community. We want to celebrate its goodness, serve its specific needs, and work towards the flourishing of all its citizens. We worship in the voice of our community and seek to be a church that grows organically out of our neighborhoods. We are committed to working for the common good. We look to serve, not to be served. We look to give, not to take. We are eager to bless others because we have been blessed by God.

## **Presbyterian**

Being Presbyterian means we are led by elders and connected with other churches. This provides accountability, oversight, and produces real pastoral care. We are part of the Reformed Tradition which teaches that God knows us intimately and enables us to know Him intimately. We believe that life in relationship with God is not only possible but vibrant. That God is the initiator of this relationship and the whole is based on grace and forgiveness offered to us in the being and action of Jesus Christ.

## **Church**

We believe that church is not an event or a program but rather a family. A place where you no longer have to choose between being really known or really loved. Within the family of God we don't need to perform in order to be accepted. We no longer relate to each other based upon our past failures or future potential but rather we relate to each other as brothers and sisters who have been loved by God in Christ!

## COMING UP

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### **Sunday Night Community Group**

While we typically meet on Sunday evenings from 5-7pm in each other's homes for fellowship, to eat and drink together, study Scripture and pray for each other, our community, and our world, this meeting will not take place today due to the coronavirus response.

### **Commissioning Service**

Has been postponed until after the coronavirus response.

### **Public Launch Celebration**

Bear with us – this is a “soft launch”! Our public launch celebration has also been postponed until after the coronavirus response.  SEP

### **Contact us**

203.812.9928 or [curran.bishop@cpcmilford.org](mailto:curran.bishop@cpcmilford.org); find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/CPCMilford](https://facebook.com/CPCMilford) or visit us online at [cpcmilford.org](http://cpcmilford.org)



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