



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

May 10, 2020
5th Sunday of Easter

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

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

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!

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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Come People of the Risen King

Come people of the Risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in

Chorus

Rejoice rejoice let ev'ry tongue rejoice
One heart one voice
O Church of Christ rejoice

Come those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night
Come those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight
For His perfect love will never change
And His mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace

Chorus

Come young and old from ev'ry land
Men and women of the faith
Come those with full or empty hands
Find the riches of His grace
Over all the world His people sing
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through ev'ry age
Our God is all in all

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 What'er My God Ordains Is Right

Whate'er my God ordains is right
His holy will abideth
I will be still whate'er He does
And follow where He guideth
He is my God though dark my road
He holds me that I shall not fall
And so to Him I leave it all

Whate'er my God ordains is right
He never will deceive me
He leads me by the proper path
I know He will not leave me
I take content What He has sent
His hand can turn my griefs away
And patiently I wait His day

Whate'er my God ordains is right
Though now this cup in drinking
May bitter seem to my faint heart
I take it all unshrinking
My God is true each morn anew
Sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart
And pain and sorrow shall depart

Whate'er my God ordains is right
Here shall my stand be taken
Though sorrow need or death be mine
Yet I am not forsaken
My Father's care is round me there
He holds me that I shall not fall
And so to Him I leave it all

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

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.

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 Psalm 62

My soul finds rest in God alone
My rock and my salvation
A fortress strong against my foes
And I will not be shaken
Though lips may bless and hearts may curse
And lies like arrows pierce me
I'll fix my heart on righteousness
I'll look to Him who hears me

Chorus

O praise Him hallelujah
My Delight and my Reward
Everlasting never failing
My Redeemer my God

Find rest my soul in God alone
Amid the world's temptations
When evil seeks to take a hold
I'll cling to my salvation
Though riches come and riches go
Don't set your heart upon them
The fields of hope in which I sow
Are harvested in heaven

Chorus

I'll set my gaze on God alone
And trust in Him completely
With ev'ry day pour out my soul
And He will prove His mercy
Though life is but a fleeting breath
A sigh too brief to measure
My King has crushed the curse of death
And I am His forever

Bridge

O praise Him O praise Him
Hallelujah hallelujah
(Repeat 2x)

Chorus

Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Gloria

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen! Amen!

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

New Testament Lesson Acts 2:1-41

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

Sermon

“Empowered” | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn

Though Troubles Assail Us

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

Bringing Our Life to God

Profession | Collection | Prayers

Confession of Faith

adapted from Westminster Larger Catechism (1647) &
John Calvin *Commentary on Colossians* (1548)

Why was it requisite that Christ should be human?

It was requisite that Christ should be human, that he might advance our nature, perform obedience to the law, suffer and make intercession for us in our nature, have a fellow-feeling of our infirmities; that we might receive the adoption of sons, and have comfort and access with boldness unto the throne of grace.

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.

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 is joyful in persecution because he considers that we must carry about in our body the dying of Christ, so that His life may be manifested in us.

Prayers of the People |

Collection

G C Am D Em G D⁷ G

1. Though trou - bles as - sail us and dan - gers af - fright,
 2. The birds, with - out gar - ner or store - house, are fed;
 3. When Sa - tan as - sails us to stop up our path,
 4. No strength of our own and no good - ness we claim;

C Am D Em G D⁷ G

though friends should all fail us and foes all u - nite,
 from them let us learn to trust God for our bread.
 and cour - age all fails us, we tri - umph by faith.
 yet, since we have known of the Sav - ior's great name,

F D G Em G D

yet one thing se - cures us, what - ev - er be - tide,
 His saints what is fit - ting shall ne'er be de - nied,
 He can - not take from us, though oft he has tried,
 in this our strong tow - er for safe - ty we hide:

C Am D Em G D⁷ G 7

the prom - ise as - sures us, "The Lord will pro - vide."
 so long as 'tis writ - ten, "The Lord will pro - vide."
 this heart - cheer - ing prom - ise, "The Lord will pro - vide."
 the Lord is our pow - er, "The Lord will pro - vide."

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 "1, Final (1st time: D.C.) Fine" and a second ending marked "2 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

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

Chorus

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

Chorus

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

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 —

Benediction I 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.

Coronation Hymn Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment

Announcements

1. Day by day and with each pass - ing mo - ment, Strength I find to
 2. Ev - 'ry day the Lord Him - self is near me With a spe - cial
 3. Help me then in ev - 'ry trib - u - la - tion So to trust Your

meet my tri - als here; Trust - ing in my Fa - ther's wise be - stow - ment,
 mer - cy for each hour; All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
 prom - is - es, O Lord, That I lose not faith's sweet con - so - la - tion

I've no cause for wor - ry or for fear. He whose heart is kind be -
 He whose name is Coun - sel - lor and Pow'r. The pro - tec - tion of His
 Of - fered me with - in Your ho - ly Word. Help me, Lord, when toil and

yond all meas - ure Gives un - to each day what He deems best - Lov - ing -
 child and treas - ure Is a charge that on Him - self He laid; "As your
 trou - ble meet - ing, E'er to take, as from a fa - ther's hand, One by

ly, its part of pain and pleas - ure, Min - gling toil with peace and rest.
 days, your strength shall be in meas - ure," This the pledge to me He made.
 one, the days, the mo - ments fleet - ing, Till I reach the prom - ised land.

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)

WE ARE A LOCAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

In the midst of pandemic, financial crisis and social isolation we need each other, and we need God. Please join us as we follow a short prayer and scripture liturgy, pray for each other, and have some “digital fellowship“ while staying home and staying safe.

Follow the link a few minutes before 7 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/823911975>

Or just input the meeting ID in the app: 823 911 975

Leadership Training: Rooted

We're partnering with Christ Pres. Fairfield to do an online training together aimed at anyone who has an interest in any sort of leadership role in the the church: Sunday school teacher, ministry coordinator, community group leader, elder, etc.; or anyone who would like to know more about what the Bible teaches, how to read the Bible faithfully, and what the general beliefs of the Presbyterian Church are. We're committed to making the course engaging and practical, digging into questions, and learning together.

Zoom Link for 8pm meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88538451252>

Meeting ID is: 885-3845-1252

Contact us

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



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