



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

May 17, 2020  
6<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 Praise**

Praise the Lord!

Easter morning was the first day of a new creation!

Christ is risen, Death has been conquered!

All who have bowed before Jesus,

Who trust in the power of his dying

To be the death of their guilt,

Are made children of the resurrection,

Partakers of an indestructible life!

Whoever has tasted truly of the powers of the age to come

Sings from the heart:

Refrains of relief, carols of gladness!

The Pleasure of all that is to come tunes our tongue,

And our inward joys arise and turn into a song!

**Praise the Lord!**

.....

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

**Gathering Hymn** All Creatures of our God and King

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us  
 2 O rush-ing wind that art so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven a -  
 3 O flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to  
 4 All you who are of ten-der heart, for - giv - ing oth - ers, take your  
 5 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor-ship him in hum-ble-

Asus A  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G D Bm  $\frac{A}{C\#}$  D E A  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  D Bm7  $\frac{A7}{E}$  D  $\frac{G}{B}$

sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! O burn - ing sun with gold - en  
 long, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! O ris - ing morn in praise re -  
 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! O fire - so mas - ter - ful and  
 part, sing prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! All you who pain and sor - row  
 ness, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the

Asus A  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{A7}{E}$  D  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{Dmaj7}{A}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{D}{A}$  G6  $\frac{A}{G}$   $\frac{D}{F\#}$  Em7  $\frac{D}{F\#}$

beam, and sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise him, O  
 joyce, O lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O praise him, O  
 bright, pro - vid - ing us with warmth and light, O praise him, O  
 bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O praise him, O  
 Son, and praise the Spir - it, Three in One, O praise him, O

G6 A7 Bm  $\frac{A}{C\#}$  D6 E A Bm7  $\frac{F\#m}{C\#}$  D Em  $\frac{A}{C\#}$   $\frac{B7}{D\#}$  Em  $\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{Em7}{G}$  A A7 D

praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

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

## Call to Worship

from Psalm 22

You who fear the LORD, praise him!

**All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

**The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!**

May your hearts live forever!

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,**  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

**For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**

Invocation

**Epistle Lesson** Hebrews 12:14–24

**Praise Hymn** God of Wonders

Lord of all creation  
Of water earth and sky  
The heavens are Your tabernacle  
Glory to the Lord on high

### **Chorus**

God of wonders beyond our galaxy  
You are holy holy  
The universe declares Your majesty  
You are holy holy  
Lord of heaven and earth  
Lord of heaven and earth

Early in the morning  
I will celebrate the light  
When I stumble in the darkness  
I will call Your name by night

## **Chorus**

### **Bridge**

Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth  
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth  
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth

God of wonders beyond our galaxy  
You are holy holy  
Precious Lord reveal Your heart to me  
Father hold me hold me  
The universe declares Your majesty  
You are holy holy

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## **Old Testament Lesson    Psalms 31:1–16**

### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord God, we believe in you; help our unbelief.  
We love you—yet not with all our heart, our soul,  
our mind, our strength.  
We long to serve you—yet not with that singleness of  
purpose that pleases your fatherly heart.  
We seek to obey you—yet do it fitfully and poorly.

O Father in heaven, forgive our past disloyalties;  
accept our present purposes,  
and work in us what is pleasing in your sight;  
that tomorrow we may begin again,  
and walk in the light, even as you are in the light.

Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
who purchased and won us, and who promises to complete  
what you have begun in us. Amen.

**Absolution** Deuteronomy 30:6, Hebrews 10:22

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**Old Testament Lesson** Psalm 98

**Thanksgiving Hymn** O Praise the Name

I cast my mind to Calvary  
Where Jesus bled and died for me  
I see His wounds His hands His feet  
My Savior on that cursed tree  
His body bound and drenched in tears  
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone  
Messiah still and all alone

**Chorus**

O praise the Name of the Lord our God  
O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Then on the third at break of dawn  
The Son of heaven rose again  
O trampled death where is your sting  
The angels roar for Christ the King

**Chorus**

He shall return in robes of white  
The blazing sun shall pierce the night  
And I will rise among the saints  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

**Chorus**

## **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 2:41-47

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

“The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 3” | Pastor Curran Bishop

## **Response Hymn** Awesome Is the Lord Most High

Great are You Lord mighty in strength

You are faithful and You will ever be

We will praise You all of our days

It's for Your glory we offer everything

### **Chorus I**

Raise your hands all you nations

Shout to God all creation

How awesome is the Lord most high

Where You send us God we will go

You're the answer we want the world to know

We will trust You when You call our name

Where You lead us we'll follow all the way



## **Chorus 2**

Raise your hands all you nations  
Shout to God all creation  
How awesome is the Lord most high  
We will praise You together for now and forever  
How awesome is the Lord most high

## **Bridge**

Hallelujah hallelujah  
How awesome is the Lord most high  
Hallelujah hallelujah  
How awesome is the Lord most high

## **Chorus 2**

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

**Bringing Our Life to God**

Profession | Collection | Prayers

**Confession of Faith**

from The Lausanne Covenant (1974)

Christians, what do you believe?

**I believe in the one eternal God, Creator and Lord of the world, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who governs all things according to the purpose of His will. I believe that God has been calling out from the world a people for Himself, the church, and sending His people back into the world to be His servants and witnesses for the extension of His Kingdom and for His glory. I believe in the divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of both the Old and New Testament Scriptures in their entirety as the only written word of God, and in the power of God's word to accomplish His purpose of salvation. I believe that there is only one Savior, Jesus Christ, and that He will return personally and visibly, in power and glory, to consummate His salvation and His judgment.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit whom the Father has sent to bear witness to His Son, believing that conviction of sin, faith in Christ, new birth, and Christian growth are all His work.**

**Prayers of the People**

# Collection

## Praise Ye The Lord Alleluia

Hal- le - lu, hal- le- lu-, hal-le- lu, hal- le - lu-jah, Praise ye the Lord! Hal- le -

The first system of music features a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes.

lu, hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu, hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord! Praise ye the Lord, hal-lelujah!

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble clef part includes some dotted rhythms and rests. The bass line continues with a consistent harmonic support.

Praise ye the Lord, hal-le-lu-jah! Praise ye the Lord, hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

The third system concludes the piece. The treble clef part ends with a final cadence, and the bass line provides a strong harmonic foundation. The piece ends with a double bar line.

## **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**

### **O Day of Rest and Gladness**

O day of rest and gladness,  
O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness,  
Most beautiful, most bright:  
On Thee, the high and lowly,  
Through ages joined in tune,  
Sing holy, holy, holy,  
To the great God Triune.

On Thee, at the creation,  
The light first had its birth;  
On Thee, for our salvation,  
Christ rose from depths of earth;  
On Thee, our Lord, victorious,  
The Spirit sent from heaven,  
And thus on Thee, most glorious,  
A triple light was given.

Thou art a port protected  
From storms that round us rise;  
A garden intersected  
With streams of paradise;  
Thou art a cooling fountain  
In life's dry dreary sand;  
From Thee, like Pisgah's mountain,  
We view our promised land.

Today on weary nations  
The heavenly manna falls;  
To holy convocations  
The silver trumpet calls,  
Where gospel light is glowing  
With pure and radiant beams,  
And living water flowing,  
With soul-refreshing streams.

New graces ever gaining  
From this, our day of rest,  
We reach the rest remaining  
To spirits of the blessed.  
To Holy Ghost be praises,  
To Father, and to Son;  
The church her voice upraises  
To Thee, blessed Three in One.

### **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.

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### **Benediction**            Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Coronation Hymn**            Praise Waits for Thee in Zion (Psalm 65)

### **Announcements**

1. Praise waits for thee in Zi - on; all men shall wor - ship there  
 2. How blest the man thou call - est and bring - est near to thee,  
 3. O God of our sal - va - tion, since thou dost love the right,  
 4. Thy might sets fast the moun - tains; strength girds thee ev - er - more

and pay their vows be - fore thee, O God who hear - est prayer  
 that in thy courts for - ev - er his dwell - ing place may be;  
 thou wilt an an - swer send us in won - drous deeds of might  
 to calm the rag - ing peo - ples and still the o - cean's roar.

Our sins rise up a - gainst us, pre - vail - ing day by day,  
 he shall with - in thy tem - ple be sat - is - fied with grace.  
 In all earth's hab - i - ta - tions, on all the bound - less sea,  
 Thy maj - es - ty and great - ness are through all lands con - fess'd

but thou wilt show us mer - cy and take their guilt a - way,  
 and filled with all the good - ness of thy most ho - ly place  
 man finds no sure re - li - ance, no peace, a - part from thee,  
 and joy on earth thou send - est a - far from east to west.

5 To bless the earth thou sendest from thine abundant store  
 the waters of the springtime, enriching it once more.  
 The seed by thee provided is sown o'er hill and plain,  
 and thou with gentle showers dost bless the springtime grain.

6 The year with good thou crownest, the earth thy mercy fills,  
 the wilderness is fruitful, and joyful are the hills;  
 with corn the vales are covered, the flocks in pastures graze;  
 All nature joins in singing a joyful song of praise..

## REFLECTION

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### **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

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



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