



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

May 31, 2020
Pentecost Sunday

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 Immortal Jesus as the Resurrection Community of the Spirit

Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ
Who has baptized us with his Spirit—
Divine wind,
Fire from heaven,
Light from above,
Comforter
The very life of God in our lives!

Praise be to the Spirit who animates the church;
Who sets Christ before us, glorifying his dying and rising,
Convincing us we are loved,
Softening our concrete hearts,
Recreating us in the Beloved,
Drawing together what had split apart:
Young and old, rich and poor, men and women,
This racial group and that, the weak and the strong,
The sick and the well—
One new community of redeemed children of Adam!

Come, O Source of joy and gladness,
Breathe your life in and through us.
Alleluia!

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PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Speak O Lord

Speak O Lord as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience
Holy reverence true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak O Lord and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak O Lord till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

1. Shine thou up - on us, Lord, true light of men, to - day,
 2. Breathe thou up - on us, Lord, thy Spir - it's liv - ing flame,
 3. Speak thou for us, O Lord, in all we say of thee;
 4. Live thou with - in us, Lord; thy mind and will be ours;

and through the writ - ten Word thy ver - y self dis - play,
 that so with one ac - cord our lips may tell thy name.
 ac - cord - ing to thy Word let all our teach - ing be,
 be thou be - lov'd, a - dored, and served with all our pow'rs,

that so from hearts which burn with gaz - ing on thy face
 Give thou the hear - ing ear, fix thou the wan - d'ring thought,
 that so thy lambs may know their own true Shep - herd's voice,
 that so our lives may teach thy chil - dren what thou art,

thy lit - tle ones may learn the won - ders of thy grace.
 that those we teach may hear the great things thou hast wrought.
 wher - e'er he leads them go, and in his love re - joice.
 and plead, by more than speech, for thee with ev - 'ry heart.

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

Call to Worship Acts 1:4–11:

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “**Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**”

Invocation

Praise Hymn Shine Thou upon Us, Lord

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

Old Testament Lesson Joel 2:12–13, 28–32

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

O exalted and mighty Father,
quietly and humbly we come,
remembering that you oppose the proud,
and tear down those who exalt themselves.

We are guilty of conceit, of vanity, and of boasting,
of putting on airs of superiority,
and adopting tones of condescension.
Our hearts have been stony, and proud.
And we have loved neither you nor others
with the innocence of children
We are quick to criticize and find fault,
but defensive and testy when criticized ourselves.
We have been smug or stingy with our possessions,
or protective of our status, or too hungry for praise.

Help us, for the burden of love you ask us to carry
is breaking our proud back,
for only humility is strong enough to carry it.
Bend us, O Lord, under your mighty hand.
Bow our hearts, that we might know ourselves as we are,
and not as we imagine ourselves to be.

All this we confess, in the name of our humble Savior,
Even Jesus Christ. Amen.

Absolution Romans 8:1–4, 9–10

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.... You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Thanksgiving Hymn Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit living Breath of God
Breathe new life into my willing soul
Let the presence of the risen Lord
Come renew my heart and make me whole
Cause Your word to come alive in me

Give me faith for what I cannot see
Give me passion for Your purity
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me

Holy Spirit come abide within
May Your joy be seen in all I do
Love enough to cover every sin
In each thought and deed and attitude
Kindness to the greatest and the least
Gentleness that sows the path of peace
Turn my strivings into works of grace
Breath of God show Christ in all I do

Holy Spirit from creation's birth
Giving life to all that God has made
Show Your power once again on earth
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see

New Testament Lesson

Acts 2:1-21

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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 4:32-5:11

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 5” | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn As the Deer

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

Chorus

You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

You're my friend and You are my brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything

Chorus

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joygiver
And the apple of my eye

Chorus

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

Bringing Our Life to God

Profession | Collection | Prayers

Confession of Faith

I Timothy 3:16 (1st Century)

Christians, what do you believe?

**He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.**

Prayers of the People

Collection

Response Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me; Spir - it of the

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time. The treble staff contains a melody with notes and rests, and the bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes.

liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me,

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It includes the lyrics 'liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me,'.

fill me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

The third system of musical notation concludes the response. It includes the lyrics 'fill me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.' and 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 Holy Ghost, Dispel our Sadness

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 from Ephesians 3:16 & 19

Now may the Lord bless you according to the riches of his glory and grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God in Christ. Amen.

Coronation Hymn Revive Thy Work O Lord

Announcements

1. Ho - ly Ghost, dis - pel our sad - ness, pierce the clouds of sin - ful night;
 2. From that height which knows no mea - sure, as a gra - cious show'r de - scend;
 3. Come, O best of all do - na - tions God can give or we im - plore;

come, O source of sweet - est glad - ness, breathe your life and spread your light.
 bring - ing down the rich - est trea - sure man can wish or God can send.
 hav - ing your sweet con - so - la - tions we need wish for noth - ing more.

Lov - ing Spir - it, God of peace, great dis - trib - u - tor of grace,
 Heav'n - ly Glo - ry, shin - ing down from the Fa - ther and the Son,
 Come with unc - tion and with pow'r, on our souls your grac - es show'r;

rest up - on this con - gre - ga - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
 grant us your il - lu - mi - na - tion; rest up - on this con - gre - ga - tion.
 au - thor of the new cre - a - tion, make our hearts your hab - i - ta - tion.

1. Re - vive thy work, O Lord, thy might - y arm make bare;
 2. Re - vive thy work, O Lord, dis - turb this sleep of death;
 3. Re - vive thy work, O Lord, cre - ate soul - thirst for thee;
 4. Re - vive thy work, O Lord, ex - alt thy pre - cious name;
 5. Re - vive thy work, O Lord, give Pen - te - cos - tal show'rs;

speak with the voice that wakes the dead, and make thy peo - ple hear.
 quick - en the smoul-d'ring em - bers now by thine al - might - y breath.
 • and hun - g'ring for the Bread of Life O may our spir - its be.
 and, by the Ho - ly Ghost, our love for thee and thine in - flame.
 the glo - ry shall be all thine own, the bless - ing, Lord, be ours.

REFLECTION

The Church and the Spirit

The Church is composed of those who are God's people in a very different sense than, for instance, the earth is the Lord's.

The Spirit of the Lord fills and moves his creation, but what made the Church and fills and moves it is his Holy Spirit, something dearer, something greater. All men are God's, as part of his creation; they are his offspring. But there is something greater, more divine than humanity; it is the Church of God. The Church of God is the finest product of humanity, it is the greatest thing in the universe. And this is so because it was produced by God in his Son and Holy Spirit. The Church is his own as no nation is, no society, no family. The Church is his as his Son is his, his in his Son. His not as a part of creation, but as a new creation in Jesus Christ. If in love he created the world, in much more love did he create the Church. It was in might and beauty he created the world; it was in holy love he created the Church. It is his as nothing else in the world is. It is the Church of his Son, and his Son is more to him than all the world.

I speak of the Church of course as God sees it, God who sees the end from the beginning. You must also learn to see your Church like that, not as a man sees it but as God redeemed it, and as God trusts it, and bears with it, and feeds it, and serves it, and waits for it while it grows to the mature man in Jesus Christ.

— *P. T Forsyth (1848-1921)*

Pentecost

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings,
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays,
Today the church draws breath at last and sings,
As every flame becomes a tongue of praise.
This is the feast of Fire, Air and Water,
Poured out and breathed and kindled into Earth.
The Earth herself awakens to her maker,
Translated out of death and into birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every boarder,
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace.
Today the lost are found in his translation,
Whose mother-tongue is love in every nation.

– Malcolm Guites, in *Sounding the Seasons*

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

Rooted: Applying the Essentials of the Faith

We're partnering with Christ Pres. Fairfield to do an online training together aimed at 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. The course also serves as the introduction to any leadership role in the church: Sunday school teacher, ministry coordinator, community group leader, elder, etc. 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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