



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

June 7, 2020
Trinity 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 God as Trinity: The Blessed Mystery of God

O God, and Spirit, and Jesus, the three,
From the crown of my head,
O Trinity,
To the soles of my feet mine offering be.
Come I unto thee, O Jesus, my King;
O Jesus, do thou be my sheltering.

I worship today
In the name of the King of life,
In the name of the Christ of love,
In the name of the Holy Spirit—
The Triune of my strength.

The Sacred Three
To save, to shield, to surround
The hearth, the home,
This day and every day.

God with me protecting,
The Lord with me directing,
The Spirit with me strengthening,
Forever and forevermore. Amen.

– From *The Breastplate of St. Patrick of Ireland*

TRINITY SUNDAY

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy

♪ D Bm A D G D 7

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

A D Bm A E7 A

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

D Bm A D G D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

♪ Bm D G D G A7 D 7

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Unison

I bind un - to my - self to - day the strong name

of the Trin - i - ty, by in - vo - ca - tion

of the same, the three in one and one in three.

2 I bind this day to me for - ev - er, by power of
3 I bind un - to my - self to - day the vir - tues
4 I bind un - to my - self to - day the power of
5 I bind un - to my - self the name, the strong name

faith, Christ's in - car - na - tion, his bap - tism in the
of the star - lit heav - en, the glo - rious sun's life -
God to hold and lead, his eye to watch, his
of the Trin - i - ty, by in - vo - ca - tion

Jor - dan Riv - er, his cross of death for my sal -
 giv - ing ray, the white - ness of the moon at
 might to stay, his ear to hear - ken to my
 of the same, the three in one and one in

va - tion, his burst - ing from the spic - ed tomb, his
 e - ven, the flash - ing of the light - ning free, the
 need, the wis - dom of my God to teach, his
 three, of whom all na - ture has cre - a - tion, e -

rid - ing up the heaven - ly way, his com - ing at the
 whirl - ing wind's tem - pes - tuous shocks, the sta - ble earth, the
 hand to guide, his shield to ward, the Word of God to
 ter - nal Fa - ther, Spir - it, Word. Praise to the Lord of

day of doom, I bind un - to my - self to - day.
 deep salt sea, a - round the old e - ter - nal rocks.
 give me speech, his heaven - ly host to be my guard.
 my sal - va - tion, sal - va - tion is of Christ the Lord!

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

Call to Worship Deuteronomy 6:4–6

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart

Invocation

Praise Hymn I Bind unto Myself Today (Saint Patrick's Breastplate)

New Testament teaching on the Trinity:

Matt. 3:16-17; 28:18-19; John 14:24-26; Acts 2:32-33;

Eph. 1:3, 11, 12-14; 4:4-7; 2 Cor. 13:14

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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

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 Hebrews 7:25-27

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and

exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

Thanksgiving Hymn God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory

Gospel Lesson John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

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!

Gloria Patri

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

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 6” | Pastor Curran Bishop

1. God, all na - ture sings thy glo - ry, and thy works pro - claim thy might;
 2. Clear - er still we see thy hand in man whom thou hast made for thee;
 3. But our sins have spoiled thine im - age; na - ture, con - science on - ly serve
 4. God of glo - ry, pow - er, mer - cy, all cre - a - tion prais - es thee;

or - dered vast - ness in the heav - ens, or - dered course of day and night;
 rul - er of cre - a - tion's glo - ry, im - age of thy maj - es - ty.
 as un - ceas - ing, grim re - mind - ers of the wrath which we de - serve.
 we, thy crea - tures, would a - dore thee now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

beau - ty in the chang - ing sea - sons, beau - ty in the storm - ing sea;
 Mu - sic, art, the fruit - ful gar - den, all the la - bor of his days,
 Yet thy grace and sav - ing mer - cy in thy Word of truth re - vealed
 Saved to mag - ni - fy thy good - ness, grant us strength to do thy will;

all the chang - ing moods of na - ture praise the change - less Trin - i - ty.
 are the call - ing of his Mak - er to the har - vest feast of praise.
 claim the praise of all who know thee, in the blood of Je - sus sealed.
 with our acts as with our voic - es thy com - mand - ments to ful - fill.

Response Hymn All Praise To Him

All praise to Him the God of light
Who formed the mountains by His might
All praise to Him Who names the stars
That sing His fame in skies afar
All praise to Him Who reigns in love
Who guides the galaxies above
Yet bends to hear our every prayer
With sovereign pow'r and tender care

All praise to Him Whose love is seen
In Christ the Son the servant King
Who left behind His glorious throne
To pay the ransom for His own
All praise to Him Who humbly came
To bear our sorrow sin and shame
Who lived to die Who died to rise
The all-sufficient sacrifice

All praise to Him whose power imparts
The love of God within our hearts
The Spirit of all truth and peace
The fount of joy and holiness
To Father Son and Spirit now
Our souls we lift our wills we bow
To You the Triune God we raise
With loving hearts our song of praise

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

Bringing Our Life to God

Profession | Collection | Prayers

Confession of Faith

(Apostle's Creed, 1st century)

Christians, what do you believe?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*That is, the true Christian church of all times and all places.

Prayers of the People

Collection

Response Trinity Song

Holy Father Son and Spirit
Holy Communion Three in One
Come with Your peace with Your invitation
Bind us together in holy love

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.

Communion Hymn How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no power no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

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 1 Peter 1:2

According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Coronation Hymn Jehovah To My Lord Has Said (Psalm 110)

Announcements

1. Je - ho - vah to my Lord has said, "Sit Thou at My right hand
2. A will - ing peo - ple in Thy day Of pow'r shall come to Thee.
3. The Lord at Thy right hand shall smite Earth's rul - ers in His wrath.

Un - til I make Thy foes a stool Where - on Thy feet may stand."
Thy youth ar - rayed in ho - li - ness Like morn - ing dew shall be.
A - mong the na - tions He shall judge; The slain shall fill His path.

Je - ho - vah shall from Zi - on send The scep - ter of Thy pow'r.
Je - ho - vah swore, and from His oath He nev - er will de - part;
In man - y lands He'll o - ver - throw Their kings with ru - in dread;

In bat - tle with Thine en - e - mies Be Thou the con - quer - or,
"Of the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek A priest Thou ev - er art."
And, march - ing, He'll drink from the brook And so lift up His head.

REFLECTION

On God as Three and One

Every once in a while in my discussions someone asks how I can believe in the Trinity. My answer is always the same. I would still be an agnostic if there were no Trinity, because there would be no answers. Without the high order of personal unity and diversity as given in the Trinity, there are no answers....

Man is made in the image of God; therefore, on the side of the fact that God is a personal God the chasm stands not between God and man, but between man and all else. But on the side of God's in nity, man is as separated from God as the atom or any other nite thing of the universe. So we have the answer to man's being nite and yet personal.

It is not that this is the best answer to existence; it is the only answer. That is why we may hold our Christianity with intellectual integrity. The only answer for what exists is that he, the in nite-personal God, really is there.

Now we must develop the second part a bit farther—personal unity and diversity on the high order of trinity. Einstein taught that the whole material world may be reduced to electromagnetism and gravity. At the end of his life he was seeking a unity above these two, something that would unite electromagnetism and gravity, but he never found it. But what if he had found it? It would only be unity in diversity in relationship to the material world, and as such it would only be child's play. Nothing would really have been settled because the needed unity and diversity in regard to personality would not have been touched. If he had been able to bring electromagnetism and gravity together, he would not have explained the need of personal unity and diversity.

In contrast, let us think of the Nicene Creed—three Persons, one God. Rejoice that they chose the word “person.” Whether you realize it or not, that catapulted the Nicene Creed right into our century and its discussions: three Persons in existence, loving each other, and in communication with each other, before all else was.

If this were not so, we would have had a God who needed to create in order to love and communicate. In such a case, God would have needed the universe as much as the universe needed God. But God did not need to create; God does not need the universe as the universe needs him. Why? Because we have a full and true Trinity. The Persons of the Trinity communicated with each other, and loved each other before the creation of the world. This is not only an answer to the acute philosophic need of unity in diversity, but of personal unity and diversity. The unity and diversity cannot exist before God or be behind God, because whatever is farthest back is God. But with the doctrine of the Trinity, unity and diversity is God himself—three Persons, yet one God. That is what the Trinity is, and nothing less than this.

—*He Is There And He Is Not Silent*, Francis Schaeffer (1972)

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 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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