



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

June 14, 2020
3rd Sunday of Pentecost

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 Jesus as the God of New Beginnings

Every day has a new beginning,
And it is from Jesus Christ,
The Agent by whom God made the world!
So we sing,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
The week runs its course and begins again.
Every month has a new beginning,
Every year, every century.
Every birth is a new beginning—
For a child, for a family, for a church.

Every milestone passed,
Every season of life finished,
Opens into something new for us.
Bless Christ for the new beginnings he builds into our life!

Bless him, too, for new beginnings in Redemption:
For a New Covenant, a new mediator, new sacrifices;
For new promises, commissions, sacraments;
For the New Creation already begun,
And for the promise of what is to come—
The new heavens and the new earth.

For new forgiveness, granted each time we seek it;
New opportunities, given by a Sovereign Will;
New strength, gained when we admit our weakness.

Praise the Lord, he who announces:
“Behold, I am making all things new!”

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THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn See What A Morning

See what a morning gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem
Folded the grave-clothes tomb filled with light
As the angels announce Christ is risen
See God's salvation plan wrought in love
Borne in pain paid in sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ the Man for He lives
Christ is risen from the dead

See Mary weeping where is He laid
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb
Hears a voice speaking calling her name
It's the Master the Lord raised to life again
The voice that spans the years
Speaking life stirring hope bringing peace to us
Will sound till He appears
For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

One with the Father Ancient of Days
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty
Honour and blessing glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority
And we are raised with Him
Death is dead love has won Christ has conquered
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

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

Call to Worship Revelation 21:1–6

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 43:14–26; 44:1–5

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Praise Hymn Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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

Confession of Sin

O gracious Father, we come humbly to ask for your Church, that you would be pleased to fill it with all truth, in all peace.

where is corrupt, purify it;

where it is in error, enlighten it;

where it is in anything misguided, reform it;

for the Spirit, in a great mystery, calls your Church the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Where is right, establish and humble it;

where it is in need, provide for it;

where is divided, reunite it;

All for the sake of him who died and rose again, and ever lives to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ, your Son, the King in Head of the Church, from whom, through whom, And for whom, all things exist. Amen.

Absolution Isaiah 43:25

I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,
and I will not remember your sins.



1. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, There is no shad-ow of
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and springtime and har-vest, Sun, moon and stars in their
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thy own dear pres-ence to



turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-pas-sions they fail not;
 cours-es a-bove Join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness
 cheer and to guide; Strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row,



As Thou hast been Thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!
 Bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!



Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have



need-ed Thy hand hath pro-vid-ed—Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!



Thanksgiving Hymn

Isaiah 43

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you,
And the waves will not
Overcome you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name,
You are Mine.

Chorus

For I am the Lord your God (I am the Lord your God),
I am the Lord your God (I am)
The Holy One of Israel
Your Savior
(Repeat)

I am the Lord (do not fear)
(Repeat 3x)

When you walk through the fire
You'll not be burned,
And the flames will not
Consume you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name,
You are Mine.

Chorus

Epistle Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

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 6:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 7” | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Knowing You

All I once held dear built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this

Chorus

Knowing You Jesus knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my God, You're my King
You're the reason that I sing
And I love You Lord love You Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness

Chorus

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord
So with You to live and never die

Chorus

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

Bringing Our Life to God

Profession | Collection | Prayers

Confession of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 5-6, 33-38

Christians, what do you believe?

I believe that there is but one God only, the living and true God. And there are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. I believe that we are justified as an act of God's free grace, wherein he forgives all our sins and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us and received by faith alone, and that we have a right to all the privileges of a child of God. I believe that believers are being renewed in the whole person after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness, and at their death the souls of believers are made perfect in holiness and do immediately pass into glory, and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection, and that at such day we are made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity.

Collection

Prayers of the People

Response Trinity Song (Unison 1x, Parts 2x, Unison 1x)

(Women) Holy Father Son and Spirit
Holy Communion Three in One

(Men) 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 Rock of Ages

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 2 Peter 1:2-3

May grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to glory and excellence.

Coronation Hymn God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Announcements

A
Unison

Bm⁷ A

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my -
 2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fil thy
 3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy
 4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids

D Bm C#m⁷ F#m Bm⁷ E⁷ C#m⁷ F#m

self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en
 law's de - mands; could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for -
 cross I cling; na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to
 close in death, when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy

Bm⁷ E⁷ C#m⁷ F#m Bm A D C#m⁷ F#m

side which flowed, be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its
 ev - er flow, all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and
 thee for grace; foul, I to the Foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior,
 judg - ment throne, Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my -

Bm⁷ D/E E⁷ A E D/E A Fine

guilt and pow'r.
 thou a - lone.
 or I die.
 self in thee.

1 God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a-gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a-gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 meet a - gain,

REFLECTION

When God Does Something New

The doctors at Beijing Children's Hospital were taken aback—caring, but incredulous—as they surveyed Levi's ravaged, nearly lifeless form. "Why are you bothering with this baby? Wouldn't it be more merciful just to let him die? What kind of life do you think he's going to have . . . if he survives? Do you really think anyone would want to adopt such a child?"

Found abandoned in an open field—wrapped in a blanket stuffed with a Chinese bill worth little more than a U.S. dollar—this priceless life had been nearly burned to death. The doctors indicated there was a strong likelihood all of Levi's limbs would have to be amputated.

Are some people, things, and situations too broken to get involved with? Being woven into Levi's story has encouraged and convicted me that we must not give up so easily on messy situations and difficult people. Though all brokenness will be eliminated when Jesus returns, He is in the business of restoring broken things. And He is mightily at work today, accomplishing great things beyond our asking and imagining. Some of the very "messes" we concede as hopeless are the exact places God's mercies prove to be matchless.

Though the first few months of Levi's life were written with the ink of horrific pain, Jesus had more chapters to write with indelible grace. Two thousand years earlier, He told a parable comparing the kingdom of God to finding "**treasure hidden in a field**" (Matthew 13:44). Who could have imagined that finding Levi was meant as a powerful announcement that Jesus' redeeming kingdom has come to Langfang, Beijing, Boston, Franklin, and a whole lot of other places?

"Whatever it takes . . . do whatever it takes to help him. This one matters." My friend, Tim Baker, pled with the doctors who gave Levi only a 20 percent chance of survival. He promised that he and his wife, Pam, would adopt Levi if the lead physician at Beijing Children's Hospital would try to save his life. "I would be proud to have him as a son, and it will be a joy to see him graduate from high school and walk down the aisle on his wedding day." Tim's words were saturated with an alien love, and the skilled surgeon agreed to do her best to care for Levi.

The night before Levi's first surgery, Lisa Bentley, one of the Baker's colleagues, spent the evening beside Levi's incubator reading the Scriptures to him and soothing his little spirit through prayer and the cooing sounds emanating from her maternal instincts. As Levi gazed into her eyes, Lisa's heart nearly broke as she watched him try his best to suck his little burned thumb.

The morning came, and with it, new mercies. It was as though God had mobilized a multitude of angels, as the hospital staff in Beijing rallied around Levi with extraordinary interest and investment, both during surgery and afterward in his recovery. Their around-the-clock attention resulted in tremendous success. Levi not only survived, but when he was strong enough for the trip, he was flown to Boston, where the skilled staff at the Shriners Hospital performed additional surgeries—for free!

—Steven Curtis Chapman, *Restoring Broken Things* (2005)

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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