



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

June 28, 2020
5th 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 Christ, Fulfiller of the Covenant Made With the World Through Noah

After the fall of the human race into sin in Eden,
God soon meted out his fierce judgment
by sending a catastrophic flood
on the world degenerated in disobedience.

But praise be to his Name,
to his heart of love and his glorious grace,
that he chose no longer to rule to the End
with only justice, but with justice tempered by Mercy!

For the sake of a fragile world he created and loved,
God sealed a covenant with righteous Noah
on behalf of all flesh:
he declared the time between the Flood
and the Second Coming of his Son
an open window
for the pouring in of his grace upon the world,
postponing till that Coming
his indignation against all unrepentant rebels,
but pouring it out with fury
on the head of his Son in his First Coming
for the rescue of his chosen children.
Blessed be the Just Lord for his Mercy!

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Psalm 148

1. From heav'n O praise the LORD; Ye heights, His glo - ry raise.
 2. Yea, let them glo - rious make Je - ho - vah's match - less name;
 3. From earth O praise the LORD, Ye deeps and all be - low;
 4. Let all the peo - ple praise, And kings of ev - 'ry land;
 5. Je - ho - vah's name be praised A - bove the earth and sky.

All an - gels, praise ac - cord; Let all His host give praise.
 For when the word He spake They in - to be - ing came.
 Wild winds that do His word, Ye clouds, fire, hail, and snow;
 Let all their voic - es raise Who judge and give com - mand.
 For He His saints has raised And set their power on high.

Praise Him on high, Sun, moon, and star,
 And from that place Where fixed they be,
 Ye moun - tains high, Ye ce - dars tall,
 By young and old, By maid and youth,
 Him praise ac - cord, O Is - rael's race,

Sun, moon, and star, Ye heav'ns a - far, And cloud - y sky.
 Where fixed they be, By His de - cree They can - not pass.
 Ye ce - dars tall, Beasts great and small, And birds that fly.
 By maid and youth, His name in truth Should be ex - tolled.
 O Is - rael's race, Near to His grace. Praise ye the LORD.

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

Call to Worship Revelation 4:2, 4-5a, 6b, 8b

At once I was in the Spirit, and behold,

a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones,

and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders,

clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

From the throne came flashes of lightning,

and rumblings and peals of thunder

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures...

and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,

who was and is and is to come!”

Invocation

Praise Hymn Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain

Holy holy is He

Sing a new song to Him Who sits on

Heaven's mercy seat

Chorus:

Holy holy holy

Is the Lord God Almighty

Who was and is and is to come

With all creation I sing

Praise to the King of kings

You are my everything

And I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of living color

Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder

Blessing and honor strength and glory

And power be to You the only wise King

Chorus

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power breath and living water
Such a marvelous mystery

Chorus

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

The Reality of the Fall into Sin

Confession of Sin Genesis 6:11–14, 17

Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.

Silent Confession

The Grace of God in Bearing with His Fallen World

Absolution Genesis 6:17-18, 8:18-22

“For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.” So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down

every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

Thanksgiving Hymn Ever Be

Your love is devoted like a ring of solid gold
Like a vow that is tested like a covenant of old
Your love is enduring through the winter rain
And beyond the horizon with mercy for today
Faithful You have been and faithful You will be
You pledge Yourself to me and it's why I sing

Chorus

Your praise will ever be on my lips
Ever be on my lips
Your praise will ever be on my lips
Ever be on my lips

You Father the orphan, your kindness makes us whole
You shoulder our weakness and Your strength becomes our own
You're making me like you Clothing me in white
Bringing beauty from ashes for You will have Your bride
Free of all her guilt and rid of all her shame
And known by her true name and it's why I sing

Chorus

Bridge

You will be praised You will be praised
With angels and saints we sing worthy are You Lord

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 —

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10

New Testament Lesson Hebrews 12:1-17

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “What Race are You Running?” | Pastor Craig Luekens

Response Hymn Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

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

Bringing Our Life to God Profession | Collection | Prayers

Prayers of the People

Collection

1. O soul, are you wea - ry and trou - bled? No light in the
2. Through death in - to life ev - er - last - ing He passed, and we
3. His word shall not fail you — He prom - ised; be - lieve Him, and

dark-ness you see? There's light for a look at the Sav - ior, and
fol - low Him there; o - ver us sin no more hath do - min - ion — for
all will be well; then go to a world that is dy - ing, His

life more a - bun - dant and free!
more than con-querors we are! Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus,
per-fect sal - va - tion to tell!

look full in His won - der - ful face, and the things of

earth will grow strange - ly dim in the light of His glo - ry and grace.

Response Sinclair Alleluia

1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
2. He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, Al - le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith Covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:7-16)

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,

“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

And God said,

“This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh.

And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

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 O the Deep, Deep, Love of Jesus

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 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Coronation Hymn My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Announcements

1. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, Vast, un - mea - sured, bound - less, free,
 2. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus - Spread His praise from shore to shore!
 3. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, Love of ev - ery love the best;

Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean In its full - ness o - ver me.
 How He lov - eth, ev - er lov - eth, Chang - eth nev - er, nev - er - more;
 'Tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing, 'Tis a ha - ven sweet of rest.

Un - der - neath me, all a - round me, Is the cur - rent of Thy love;
 How He watch - es o'er His loved ones, Died to call them all His own;
 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;

Lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward To my glo - rious rest a - bove.
 How for them He in - ter - ced - eth, Watch - eth o'er them from the throne.
 And it lifts me up to glo - ry, For it lifts me up to Thee.

Capo 3: F(D)

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found; dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone, fault -

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

REFRAIN

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

REFLECTION

Noahic Covenant: God Accommodates Himself

What is expressed [in the Noahic covenant that now must incorporate "fear and dread" (Genesis 9:2) and guilt and atonement (Genesis 9:6) into the world] is the will of God as it is altered by sin, or better, the will of God which adapts itself, which does not withdraw from fallen man in rigid self-assertion but instead pursues him and makes itself known to him in a form which takes into account the disrupted possibilities of the fallen world. If it did not do this, the will of God could only mean death for the fallen world.

– Helmut Thielicke

After the Fall into sin in Eden, God doesn't withdraw from the human race "in rigid self-assertion"—though if he had, we would still have to call that Justice. But God accommodates himself to the fallen world and refuses to govern it any more on the principle of pure justice. He promises us, through what he bound himself to when he spoke to Noah, that he would govern the world of men and trees and creatures by justice and mercy. If he hadn't done this, his holiness would have demanded the destruction of the world long ago.

– Ron Lutzjens

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](https://www.cpcmilford.org)



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