



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

July 5, 2020
6th 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 God's Covenant with Abraham: the Promise of Land

Blessed be the God of the ages
Who gave us the earth to live in:
Who by the blood of his Son
Rescued the earth from the ruin our sin brought on it;
Who will restore it one day in a great act of power.

O Lord, Because of our foolish disobedience
You exiled us from the Garden,
And from the joy of your Presence.
Yet through our father Abraham
You gave to Israel the Promised Land,
An earthly realm of splendor under David the king,
To be a shadow-picture of the Life of the World to Come.

Blessed are you, O Lord,
For returning us to your presence by Mercy,
Remembering your promise to Abraham.
Praise is fitting for the One
Who plants us in a place,
And causes us to flourish until the whole round world
Becomes the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ!

.....

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul

D G D Em⁷ A⁷ D

1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;
 2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to be his aid;
 3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing pris - 'ner free,
 4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;

G D Em⁷ A⁷ D

I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.
 he is blessed whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his God is stayed.
 rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eye to see.
 I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.

G D G D

Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on man de - pend;
 Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - at - ed, seas and all that they con - tain;
 Well Je - ho - vah loves the righ - teous, and the strang - er he be - friends,
 O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all a - ges he is King;

G D Em⁷ A⁷ D 7

he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing, and his pur - pos - es shall end.
 he de - liv - ers from op - pres - sion, righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.
 helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
 un - to him, your God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

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

Call to Worship Psalm 105:1, 7-11, 42

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

He is the LORD our God;

his judgments are in all the earth

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations

the covenant that he made with Abraham,

his sworn promise to Isaac,

which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,

to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying,

“To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.”

For he remembered his holy promise,

and Abraham, his servant.

Invocation

Praise Hymn El Shaddai

Chorus

El Shaddai El Shaddai

El Elyonna Adonai

Age to age You're still the same

By the power of the name

El Shaddai El Shaddai

Erkamkana Adonai

We will praise and lift You high

El Shaddai

Through Your love and through the ram

You saved the son of Abraham

Through the power of Your hand

You turned the sea into dry land

To the outcast on her knees

You were the God who really sees

And by Your might

You set Your children free

Chorus

Through the years You made it clear
That the time of Christ was near
Though the people couldn't see
What Messiah ought to be
Though Your Word contained the plan
They just could not understand
Your most awesome work was done
In the frailty of Your Son

Chorus

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 12:1-9

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

Confession of Sin based on Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Oh Lord: You have shown us life and death,
 and we have chosen death;
You have shown us good and evil,
 and we have chosen evil.
We have not obeyed Your commandments,
 we have not loved You,
 we have not walked in Your ways.
We do not deserve the coming good land of your
 Kingdom We have hardened our hearts,
 shut up our ears, and run after gods of money,
 materialism, pleasure, and selfishness.
Heaven and earth bear witness against us that we have loved death,
 that we have loved evil.
Oh Lord, we are not worthy to dwell in the New Heavens and the New Earth,
 we are not worthy of the promises you swore to our fathers.
Forgive us Lord, and bring us into the land of Your coming Kingdom,
 by the faithfulness of your faithful Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Absolution Romans 4:3, 5, 7-8

Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.... And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness... Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.

Thanksgiving Hymn There is a Land of Pure Delight

There is a land of pure delight, where saints immortal reign
infinite day excludes the night, and pleasures banish pain
And pleasures banish pain, and pleasures banish pain
infinite day excludes the night, and pleasures banish pain

There everlasting spring abides, and never-withering flowers
death, like a narrow sea, divides that heavenly land from ours
that heavenly land from ours, that heavenly land from ours
death, like a narrow sea, divides that heavenly land from ours

Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood stand dressed in living green
so to the Jews old Canaan stood, while Jordan rolled between
While Jordan rolled between, while Jordan rolled between
so to the Jews old Canaan stood while Jordan rolled between

But timorous mortals start and shrink to cross the narrow sea
and linger shivering on the brink, and fear to launch away
and fear to launch away and fear to launch away
and linger shivering on the brink, and fear to launch away.

O could we make our doubts remove, those gloomy doubts that rise
and see the Canaan that we love with unbeclouded eyes
with unbeclouded eyes; with unbeclouded eyes
and see the Canaan that we love with unbeclouded eyes

Could we but climb where Moses stood, and view the landscape o'er
not Jordan's stream, nor death's cold flood, should fright us from the shore
should fright us from the shore, should fright us from the shore
not Jordan's stream, nor death's cold flood, should fright us from the shore

Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Gloria

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 8

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 9” | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Endless Light

From the highest throne to the earth below

You laid down Your life for the likes of us

Great is the love of the Savior

From a wounded heart to a life made whole

Every human heart will declare as one

Great is the love of the Savior

Chorus

Lord of endless light; Let Your glory shine forever

All the earth; All the earth sing Your praise

Hope of every heart; Let Your Name be lifted higher

All our hearts; All our hearts sing Your praise

From the mountain heights to the valleys low
All created things given life to show
Jesus we live for Your glory
From the rising sun to the still of night
Every waking moment for Your delight
Jesus we live for Your glory

Chorus

God be exalted; God be exalted in everything
We live for Your glory; Live for Your glory
(Repeat)

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

Bringing Our Life to God

Profession | Collection | Prayers

Prayers of the People

Collection

Confession of Faith

Hebrews 11:8-10, 12-16, 39-40

⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

⁹**By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.**

¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.... ¹²**And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.**

¹³**All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.**

¹⁴People who say such things show that they are looking for a homeland.

¹⁵**If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶Instead, they were longing for a better country—a**

heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them....

³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. ⁴⁰God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

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 Power of the Cross

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood

Chorus:

This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow

Chorus

Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the vict'ry cry

Chorus

Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through Your suffering I am free
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love

Chorus 2:

This the pow'r of the cross
Son of God slain for us
What a love what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross

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 Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Coronation Hymn Jerusalem the Golden

Announcements

1. Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest,
 2. They stand, those halls of Zi - on, all ju - bi - lant with song,
 3. There is the throne of Da - vid; and there, from care re - leased,
 4. O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!

be - neath your con - tem - pla - tion sink heart and voice op - pressed.
 and bright with man - y an an - gel, and all the mar - tyr throng.
 the song of them that tri - umph, the shout of them that feast;
 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try that ea - ger hearts ex - pect!

I know not, O I know not, what joys a - wait us there;
 The Prince is ev - er in them, the day - light is se - rene;
 and they who with their Lead - er have con - quered in the fight,
 Je - sus, in mer - cy bring us to that dear land of rest;

what ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare.
 the pas - tures of the bless - ed are decked in glo - rious sheen.
 for - ev - er and for - ev - er are clad in robes of white.
 who are, with God the Fa - ther and Spir - it, ev - er blest.

REFLECTION

Shadowland

Abraham had a few feet of earth, obtained by purchase—beyond that, nothing; he died a stranger and a pilgrim in the land. Isaac had a little. So small was Jacob' hold upon his country, that the last years of his life were spent in Egypt, and he died a foreigner in a strange land. His descendants came into the land of Canaan, expecting to find it a land flowing with milk and honey; they found hard work to do—war and unrest instead of rest....

Now, the surprising point is, that Abraham, deceived as you might almost say, did not complain of it as a deception; he was even grateful for the non-fulfillment of the promise; he does not seem to have expected its fulfillment; he did not look for Canaan, but for “a city which has foundations” (Hebrews 11:10); his faith appears to have consisted in disbelieving the letter, almost as much as in believing the spirit of the promise....

There are two ways of considering life. One is the way of sentiment; the other is the way of faith. The sentimental way is trite enough. Saint, sage, sophist, moralist, and preacher have repeated, in every possible image, till there is nothing new to say, that life is a bubble, a dream, a delusion, a phantasm. The other is the way of faith: the ancient saints felt as keenly as any moralist could feel the brokenness of life's promises; they confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims here; they said that here they had no continuing city; but they did not mournfully moralize on this; they said it cheerfully, and rejoiced that it was so. They felt that all was right; they knew that the promise itself had a deeper meaning; they looked undauntedly for “a city which has foundations...”

—F.W. Robertson (1816-1853)

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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