



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

July 12, 2020
7th 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: Isaac as Shadow of the Eternal Son

Thanks be to the Lord that Abraham,
Schooled to be father of God's people,
Passed the test and was willing to sacrifice
The life of his beloved son.
What faith! What loyalty! What love!
What an infinitely rich drama
—in shadow form—
Of the Greater Sacrifice to come,
When the Father of the universe
would not rescue his Son,
for the love of us!
He who did not spare his own Son,
but gave him up for us all—how will he not also,
along with him, freely give us all things?
What wondrous love is this?

.....

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains,
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

Chorus

I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for promised land,
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.

Chorus

When shall I reach that happy place,
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face,
And in His bosom rest?

Chorus

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

Call to Worship Revelation 5:11-13

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Response (all): **Worthy is the Lamb! Alleluia!**

Invocation

Praise Hymn And Can it Be That I Should Gain

1. And can it be that I should gain an in - t'rest in the Sav - ior's blood?
 2. 'Tis mys - tery all, th' Im - mor - tal dies: who can ex - plore this strange de - sign?
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so in - fi - nite his grace!),
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in sin and na - ture's night;

1. Died he for me, who caused his pain — for me, who him to death pur - sued?
 2. In vain the first-born ser - aph tries to sound the depths of love di - vine.
 3. emp - tied him - self of all but love, and bled for Ad - am's help - less race.
 4. thine eye dif - fused a quick - ning ray; I woke, the dun - geon filled with light!

1. A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me?
 2. 'Tis mer - cy all! Let earth a - dore, let an - gel minds en - quire no more.
 3. 'Tis mer - cy all! im - mense and free! for, O my God, it found out me.
 4. My chains fell off; my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and fol - lowed thee.

Refrain

A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me.
 A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord,

5. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
 Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
 bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 22:1-14

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

Confession of Sin

Hymn of Confession O Come and Mourn (verses 1-3)

O come and mourn with me awhile,
O come ye to the Savior's side
O come, together let us mourn,
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

Seven times He spake seven words of love;
And all three hours His silence cried
For mercy on the souls of men;
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

Chorus

O love of God! O sin of man!
In this dread act Your strength is tried;
And victory remains with love;
Jesus our Lord is crucified!

O break, O break, hard heart of mine!
Thy weak self-love and guilty pride
His Pilate and His Judas were:
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

Chorus

Individual Confession

Absolution John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Thanksgiving Hymn O Come and Mourn (verse 4)

A broken heart, a fount of tears,
Ask, and they will not be denied;
A broken heart love's cradle is:
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

Chorus

New Testament Lesson Hebrews 11:17–19, Revelation 5:1–10

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 9:1-31

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 10” | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Lamb of God

Your only Son no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

Your gift of love they crucified
They laughed and scorned Him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God

Chorus

Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God

Chorus

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

Bringing Our Life to God

Profession | Collection | Prayers

Prayers of the People

Collection

Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism Questions 55 & 56

Christians, what do you believe?

I believe that Christ makes intercession for us, by his appearing in our nature continually before the Father in heaven, in the merit of his obedience and sacrifice on earth, declaring his will to have it applied to all believers; answering all accusations against them, and procuring for them quiet of conscience, notwithstanding daily failings, access with boldness to the throne of grace, and acceptance of their persons and services. And I believe that Christ will be exalted in his coming again to judge the world, in that he, who was unjustly judged and condemned by wicked men, shall come again at the last day in great power, and in the full manifestation of his own glory, and of his Father's, with all his holy angels, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, to judge the world in righteousness.

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 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

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 Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Coronation Hymn I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Announcements

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 2. Where the pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
 3. Might - y vic - tim from the sky, pow'rs of hell be - neath thee lie;

who has washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
 death is con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light;

praise we him whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal vic - tim, pas - chal bread;
 hymns of glo - ry and of praise, ris - en Lord, to thee we raise;

gives his bod - y for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
 ho - ly Fa - ther, praise to thee, with the Spir - it, ev - er be.



1. I will sing of my Re-deem-er and his won-drous love to me;
2. I will tell the won-drous sto-ry, how my lost es-tate to save,
3. I will praise my dear Re-deem-er, his tri-um-phant pow'r I'll tell,
4. I will sing of my Re-deem-er and his heav'n-ly love to me;



on the cru-el cross he suf-fered, from the curse to set me free.
in his bound-less love and mer-cy he the ran-som free-ly gave.
how the vic-to-ry he giv-eth o-ver sin and death and hell.
he from death to life has brought me, Son of God, with him to be.



Refrain



Sing, O sing of my Re-deem-er! With his blood he pur-chased me;



on the cross he sealed my par-don, paid the debt, and made me free.



REFLECTION

The Pain of Obedience

[Moses] emphasizes the intensity of the pain Abraham had to bear both at the moment of the command and throughout the long journey. We cannot adequately compare his trial to that of our own when we in our tragic experience of bereavement have to yield our dear ones up to God as he himself seems to take them from us. Abraham is here being asked not simply to say as Job did: The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord (Job 1:21). He is being commanded to engage in the very act of destroying his own son; he himself must preside over and perform the sacrifice. He had seen often enough the strange horror of approaching death in the eyes and struggling of the animals he had killed for such sacrifice. Possibly in his early life he had seen it in the human victims too in Ur and Haran.

The command to obey seemed itself aimed to touch him as deeply as possible at the heart of his tender human affection: Take your son, your only son Isaac whom you love . . . and offer him (v. 2). The demand for your only son seems to be calculated to remind him of what it felt like to sacrifice Ishmael, his other dear child. Is God going to leave him now with nothing? But this man is to be torn not only at the point of his deepest natural feelings. The command seems to threaten everything he has lived for, fought and prayed for, from the moment he left Haran....

The act [of raising his knife] can be interpreted only as having been done with the deliberate intention of going through with it. There was not a hint of sham or play-acting in Abraham.... "I could not have been an onlooker [at this event], much less the performer or the player in it," says Luther; and this is where most of us stand....

All along no doubt there had been in Abraham's mind the question: What will it cost the people of God in the service of God to become those through whom all the world is to be blessed? At Mount Moriah he thought that somehow he was beginning to find out. He had already given everything. Was God not now asking for more so that the price could be more fully paid? And so he offered his lamb, his Isaac; and suddenly God intervened with the substitute. Having brought Abraham to the point of yielding the greatest and best, he said in effect: "**Not your best, Abraham, but mine! Not your lamb, Abraham, but mine! Not your son, but mine!**"

—Ronald Wallace (1981)

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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