



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

July 26, 2020
9th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Fulfiller of God's Covenant with Moses: Christ, the End of the Law

Praise Him who gave the law to restrain evil in the world.

Praise Him who gave the law to slay our self-righteous-ness, to show us our sin and our need for a Savior.

Praise Him who gave the law as a sure guide for our sanity.

.....

NINTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Arise My Soul Arise

Arise, my soul, arise,
shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice,
in my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands,
Before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

Chorus

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise

He ever lives above,
for me to intercede;
His all redeeming love,
His precious blood, to plead;

His blood atoned for every race,
His blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Chorus

Five bleeding wounds He bears;
received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers;
they strongly plead for me:
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

Chorus

The Father hears Him pray,
His dear anointed One;
He cannot turn away
the presence of His Son;
The Spirit answers to the blood,
The Spirit answers to the blood
And tells me I am born of God.

Chorus

My God is reconciled;
His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child;
I can no longer fear
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.

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

Call to Worship Deuteronomy 5:22–24, 26-27

These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders. And you said, 'Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man and man still live.... Who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived?

Go near and hear all that the LORD our God will say and speak to us, all that the LORD our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.'

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Deuteronomy 30:11–20

Praise Hymn Come, Christian Join to Sing

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

Confession of Sin Exodus 20:2-17

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. **Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.**

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. **Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.**

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. **Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.**

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.

1. Come, Chris - tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;
 he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 on heav - en's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. **Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.**

“You shall not murder. **Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.**

“You shall not commit adultery. **Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.**

“You shall not steal. **Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.**

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.” **Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.**

Individual Confession **Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me.**

Absolution Psalms 103:10–14

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Thanksgiving Hymn Amazing Love

I'm forgiven
Because You were forsaken
I'm accepted
You were condemned
I'm alive and well
Your Spirit is within me
Because You died
And rose again

Chorus

Amazing love
How can it be
That You my King
Would die for me
Amazing love
I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

You are my King (repeat)
Jesus, You are my King (repeat)

Chorus

New Testament Lesson Matthew 5:17–20, Luke 6:1–5, 16:14–17

Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Gloria Patri

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

New Testament Lesson Acts 11:19-30

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

Sermon “The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 12” | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Thy Mercy, My God

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,

Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.
Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

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

Bringing Our Life to God

Profession | Collection | Prayers

Prayers of the People

Collection

Confession of Faith

from Westminster Confession of Faith,
Shorter Catechism, Q 39-42, 82 + summary

What is the duty which God requires of mankind?

The duty which God requires of mankind, is obedience to his revealed will, revealed in the moral law, and summarized in the ten commandments.

What is the sum of the ten commandments?

The sum of the ten commandments is, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Is any person able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

No mere person, since the fall, is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but does daily break them in thought, word, and deed.

What provision has God made for us who are unable to keep His law?

God sent his Son to perfectly keep the law, and then to die for our failure, to rise again in victory over death, and to ascend to the Father where he presents his death as atonement for our failings and his life as the basis of our 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.

Alleluia Celtic Alleluia

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 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. Amen.

Coronation Hymn Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It

Announcements

Unison Capo 1: (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (Em) (A⁷)

1. Re-deemed, how I love to pro-claim it! Re-deemed by the
 2. Re-deemed and so hap-py in Je-sus, no lan-guage my
 3. I think of my bless-ed Re-deem-er, I think of him

(D) (G) (D) (Bm) (F#m) (D⁷)

blood of the Lamb; re-deemed thro' his in-fi-nite mer-cy, his
 rap-ture can tell; I know that the light of his pres-ence with
 all the day long; I sing, for I can-not be si-lent; his

(Em⁷) (D) REFRAIN (G) (F#m) (D)

child, and for-ev-er, I am.
 me doth con-tin-u-al-ly dwell. Re-deemed, re-deemed,
 love is the theme of my song.

(Bm) (E⁷) (A) (A⁷) (D) (Bm)

re-deemed by the blood of the Lamb; re-deemed thro' his

(F#m) (D⁷) (Em⁷) (D)

in-fi-nite mer-cy, his child, and for-ev-er, I am.

REFLECTION

A Post-Cross Meditation on the Exodus

Israel thought she knew her enemies: they spoke Egyptian and worshipped cats and wallowed in the pride of their culture built on an economy of oppression and slavery. “We have met the enemy—and thank God we are being delivered from him by this fellow, Moses!”

But Israel misunderstood. Do I understand? Egypt was a mirror upon which the people of God could see their own soul reflected. All my enemies typify my heart, the sin in my soul. God came to save me from myself. I am enslaved to self-pity, to lust, to laziness, to arrogance, to a complaining spirit. I am bent in on myself, like all of us. We would be as gods to ourselves—perhaps not terribly base or wicked, only quite in charge. Do we understand? We have met the enemy—and he is us.

○ Lord Jesus, you came not only to save me but to show me my enemies. Because of your great love **death** shall rattle me in the end but shall not ruin me; the **devil** may taunt and tempt and try me, but his back has been broken and I shall stand one day, my foot on his neck. In your triumph over these, my enemies, I greatly rejoice.

But that **I myself** am the third great enemy you came to save me from? Does the Exodus really teach me that the pagan self-will and falseness of Egypt was all left behind in Egypt? Or rather that some was carried through the parted sea in the sin-sick hearts of your people? Must I die as well as my enemies if I am to be saved? Is it I myself that I despise and seek to be rescued from as my own worst enemy? Must I drown the old man in me daily? Must I call myself an idol worshipper and confess a pagan heart prone to wander before I am consoled in the sweet truth that by Mercy I am a chosen child of God?

○ wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
(Romans 7:24)

Did Christ at the cross slay me that I might live? I am Israel and I am Egypt; I am the beloved and I am the oppressor of my own soul.

Who will deliver me? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Grant then Lord, that freed from myself, I might live enslaved to you forever. For then I shall be myself. Amen.

—Ron Lutjens

COMING UP

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting – 7pm

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.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/823911975> Meeting ID: 823 911 975

Rooted: Applying the Essentials of the Faith – 8pm

We're doing an online training in partnership with Christ Pres. Fairfield looking at what the Bible teaches, how to read the Bible faithfully, and what Presbyterians believe. This is also the introduction to any leadership role in the church: Sunday school teacher, ministry coordinator, community group leader, elder, etc.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88538451252> Meeting ID: 885 3845 1252

Worship Location Schedule

– July 19, 26, August 2, 16, 23, 30, Sept 6, 20 - [1 Shipyard Ln., Milford, CT 06460 \(Fowler Field Pavilion\)](#)

– August 9 and Sept. 13 & 27 - [165 Forest Rd, Milford, CT 06461](#)

Contact us

203.812.9928 or curran.bishop@cpcmilford.org; find us on Facebook at facebook.com/CPCMilford or visit us online at cpcmilford.org



**CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD**