



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

August 23, 2020
13th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Fulfiller of the Covenant Made With David: The Kingdom of God Coming—Jerusalem, City of the Great King

Oh when shall I see Jesus, And reign with him above?
And from the flowing fountain, Drink everlasting love?

I'm on my way to Canaan, To the New Jerusalem.

When shall I be delivered, From this vain world of sin?
And with my blessed Jesus, Drink endless pleasures in?

Through grace I am determined, To conquer, though I die;
And then away to Jesus, On wings of love I'll fly.

I'm on my way to Canaan, To the New Jerusalem!

— John Leland (1754 -1841)

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Ascend

Come let us see our Lord and King
He's reigning in glory
Lift up your eyes all earth and sky
His Kingdom is coming
From glory to glory
We will arrive

Chorus

We will ascend the hill of the Lord
And we will declare His holy word
With clean hands and pure hearts
With clean hands and pure hearts
We will see God

We fix our eyes we give our lives
Our hope is in Heaven
So let us run we have overcome
Now and forever
From glory to glory
We will arrive

Chorus

And when we see Him we'll be like Him
Face to face we'll know what love is
(Repeat)

Chorus

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

Call to Worship Psalm 126:1-5

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!

**Those who sow in tears shall reap
with shouts of joy!**

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 122

Praise Hymn

Psalm 122 (verses 1-9)

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



1. ¹I was glad to hear them say - ing, "To the LORD's house
 2. This the or - di - nance for Is - rael, Here to thank Je -
 3. In your pal - ac - es be safe - ty. ⁸For the sake of



let us go." ²For our feet will soon be stand - ing In your gates, Je -
 ho - vah's name. ⁵There are set the thrones of judg - ment; There is Da - vid's
 broth - ers all, For the sake of my com - pan - ions, I am say - ing,



ru - sa - lem, ³Sa - lem, well con - struct - ed cit - y;
 house en - throned. ⁶Pray then for the peace of Sa - lem;
 "Peace to you!" ⁹For Je - ho - vah's house with - in you,



⁴There as - sem - ble all the tribes, (the tribes) Tribes that are Je - ho - vah's own.
 May they pros - per who love you, (love you) ⁷Be there peace with - in your walls.
 Tem - ple of the LORD our God, (our God) I will ev - er seek your good.



Confession of Sin

(based on Colossians 3:1-10)

“If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”

○ Lord, we have put our trust in you; we have been raised with Christ our Lord; but the things above seem so far off.

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

○ Lord, the things of earth captivate, they thrill, they distract; the things above seem so far off.

“For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

○ God my Father, the present task, or success or fun, the present crisis, or pain, or boredom, captures me; and the future glory, won for me by my Savior at the Cross, seems so far away.

“Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness — which is idolatry. On account of these things the wrath of God is coming in these you once walked, when you lived in them.”

○ Lord, much that is impure lives in me still, and it is painful to put it to death. ○ Lord, have mercy on me.

“But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth.

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.”

“Put them all away!”

[all:] ○ God, we have sinned; ○ God, I have sinned.

**I have not put all these things away;
though your Spirit has created a new heart in me,
I find myself unwilling to leave the old, dead ways
behind. ○ holy Father, forgive us; ○ Christ our
Savior, remember your sufferings on our behalf;
○ Spirit of purity, hear our prayer for Jesus' sake.
and fill us with his goodness. Amen.**

Individual Confession

Absolution

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,

coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

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.”

Thanksgiving Hymn Hail to the Brightness of Zion's Glad Morning

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 12:18-29

Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Gloria Patri

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 —

Sermon Text I Corinthians 15

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Behold, I Tell You a Mystery! | Pastor Jeff Hutchinson

Response Hymn Lion of Judah

You're the Lion of Judah, the Lamb who was slain
You ascended to heaven and ever more will reign
At the end of the age when the earth You reclaim
You will gather the nations before You

1. Hail to the bright-ness of Zi-on's glad morn-ing!
 2. Hail to the bright-ness of Zi-on's glad morn-ing!
 3. Lo, in the des-ert rich flow-ers are spring-ing,
 4. See, from all lands, from the isles of the o-cean,

Joy to the lands that in dark-ness have lain!
 Long by the proph-ets of Is-rael fore-told!
 streams ev-er co-pious are glid-ing a-long;
 praise to Je-ho-vah as-cend-ing on high;

Hushed be the ac-cents of sor-row and mourn-ing;
 Hail to the mil-lions from bond-age re-turn-ing!
 loud from the moun-tain-tops ech-oes are ring-ing,
 fall'n are the en-gines of war and com-mo-tion,

Zi-on in tri-umph be-gins her mild reign.
 Gen-tiles and Jews the blest vi-sion be-hold.
 wastes rise in ver-dure and min-gle in song.
 shouts of sal-va-tion are rend-ing the sky.

And the eyes of all men will be fixed on the Lamb, Who was crucified
With wisdom and mercy and justice you'll reign, At Your Father's side

Chorus

And the angels will cry hail the Lamb
Who was slain for the world rule in pow'r
And the earth will reply You shall reign
As the King of all kings
And the Lord of all lords

There's a shield in our hand and a sword at our side
There's a fire in our spirits that cannot be denied
'Cause the Father has told us for these You have died
For the nations who gather before You
And the ears of all men need to hear of the Lamb
Who was crucified
Who descended to hell yet was raised up to reign
At His Father's side

Chorus

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

Bringing Our Life to God

Prayers | Collection | Profession

Prayers of the People

Collection

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

Q. 52: How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?

A: In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, I confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me. Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven; Reveal who you are
Set the world right; Do what is best; As above so below
Keep us alive with three square meals
Keep us safe from the Devil and ourselves
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others
You are in charge; You can do anything; You are beautiful
You are in charge; You can do anything; You are beautiful; Amen

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 —

Coronation Hymn

O Mother, Dear Jerusalem

Benediction

from Revelation 22

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star. The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Announcements

1. O Moth - er dear, Je - ru - sa - lem, When shall I come to thee?
 2. Thy walls are made of pre-cious stones, Thy bul-warks dia-monds square;
 3. Thy gar-dens and thy gal-lant walks Con-tin-u-al - ly are green,
 4. There trees for ev - er - more bear fruit, And ev - er - more do spring;

When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
 Thy gates are of right or - ient pearl, Ex - ceed - ing rich and rare.
 There grow such sweet and pleas-ant flow'rs As no - where else are seen.
 There ev - er - more the an - gels sit, And ev - er - more do sing.

O hap - py har - bor of the saints! O sweet and pleas-ant soil!
 Thy tur - rets and thy pin - na - cles With gar - nets rare do shine;
 Quite through the streets, with sil - ver sound, The flood of life doth flow;
 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, Would God I were in thee!

In thee no sor - row may be found, No grief, no care, no toil.
 Thy ve - ry streets are paved with gold, Sur-pass-ing clear and fine.
 Up - on whose banks on ev - 'ry side The wood of life doth grow.
 Would God my woes were at an end, Thy joys that I might see! A - MEN.

REFLECTION

Made for More than We've Had

There is a very old wisdom, quite out of fashion today, that says we are not supposed to be happy here. In fact no one is really happy here, and the "pursuit of happiness," which the American Declaration of Independence declares one of our "inalienable rights," is in fact the silliest and surest way to unhappiness. This is not a wisdom we like to hear, and for that reason we had better give it extra hearing. It is a wisdom not just from the past but also from within, from the soft spot in us that we cover up with our hard surface, from the vulnerable little child in us that we mask with our invulnerable adult. Our adult pretends to want pleasure, power, wealth, health, or success, then gets it, then pretends to be happy. But our child knows what we want—nothing less than infinite joy—and, as children, we know we don't have it. Romanticists are wrong: children are not happy. They're too honest with themselves for that illusion.

No one is really happy. The phenomenon is universal, not peculiar to some temperaments, for it is not a matter of temperament or feelings, which always undulate like waves. (We are all somewhat manic-depressive.) Beneath this surface, beneath the waves of satisfaction alternating with dissatisfaction of surface desires, the deep hunger of the heart remains unsatisfied.

Because it is not a matter of temperament, this deep unhappiness appears most clearly not when one would expect, when life is full of fears or sufferings. If it appeared mainly at such times, we might dismiss it as escapism. But it is precisely when life treats us best that the deepest dissatisfaction arises. As long as we lack worldly happiness, we can deceive ourselves with the "if only" syndrome: If only I had this or that, I would be happy. But once we have all our thises and thats and are still unhappy, the deception is exposed. That's why rich and powerful modernity is not happier than previous cultures. That's the answer to Freud's question: "Why aren't we happy?"

Our greatest bitterness comes not only in the sham sweetness of riches and power but also in the middle of our truest earthly sweetness: hearing a symphony, seeing a sunset, complete sexual love. It is highest life that sets us longing for something more than this life.

– *Heaven: The Heart's Deepest Longing*, Peter Kreeft (1980)

COMING UP

THURSDAY Night Prayer Meeting – 7pm, August 6 (new day!)

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

Worship Location Schedule

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

– 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](https://www.facebook.com/CPCMilford) or visit us online at [cpcmilford.org](https://www.cpcmilford.org)



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