



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

September 27, 2020
18th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus Christ, High Lord of Justice

He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

– Micah 6:8

EIGHTEENTH 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.

Em C D Em

1 My _____ soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my
 2 Though _____ I am small, my _____ God, my all, you _____ work great _____
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who

C D Em G

heart is great, and my spir - it _____ sings of the won - drous _____
 things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the
 left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice _____
 holds us fast: God's _____ mer - cy _____ must de - liv - er _____

D Em C Em G

things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your
 past to the end of the age to be. Your ver - y
 tears ev - ery ty - rant _____ from his throne. The hun - gry
 us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing

D Em

sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you
 name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would
 poor shall _____ weep no more for the food they can
 word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which

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

Call to Worship Psalm 33:1-5

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!

Praise befits the upright.

Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

Sing to him a new song;

play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the LORD is upright,

and all his work is done in faithfulness.

He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

“Thanks be to God!”

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 45:4-14

Praise Hymn My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

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

Confession of Sin based on Amos 2 and Proverbs 31

O Lord, we confess that we have sold the righteous for silver,

and the needy for a pair of sandals—

That we trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth

and turn aside the way of the afflicted;

We pervert the sexuality which you have given us as a gift,

so that Your holy name is profaned;

We lay ourselves down beside every idol:

money, sex, power, security, possessions;

We build our sense of security on the backs of the poor,

And we pervert your Church with our self-centeredness.

We become drunk with our self-importance and forget what has been decreed;
And pervert the rights of the afflicted.

We do not open our mouth for the mute,
for the rights of all who are destitute,
or defend the rights of the poor and needy.

O Lord, we confess that we are all poor and needy.
But in our material wealth we have become proud,
and look down on those who would teach us humility,
and dependence on You.

Forgive us, O Lord, we cry! Amen.

Individual Confession

Absolution Zephaniah 3:14–17

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Thanksgiving Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy

Epistle Lesson James 2:1–13

Peace of Christ

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

Trinity Song

Holy Father Son and Spirit
Holy Communion Three in One
Come with Your peace with Your invitation
Bind us together in holy love

♪ D Bm A D G D 7

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

A D Bm A E7 A

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

D Bm A D G D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

♪ Bm D G D G A7 D 7

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

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

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 2

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

Sermon Milas Shepard

Response Hymn How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no power no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

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

Bringing Our Life to God

Prayers | Collection | Profession

Prayers of the People

Collection

text **MNA 1708** to **76959** and follow the prompts
or visit give.pcamna.org/to/1708/

Confession of Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith, 5.1: Of Providence.

Christians, what do you believe?

God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible fore-knowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

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

Sinclair 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.

Coronation Hymn

Psalm 110

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 goodwork and word. Amen.

REFLECTION

What Is The Need?

In Manilla, orphans often fend for themselves in the streets. Our ministry there provides them food, first aid, shelter, education and the good news of Christ. Not long ago, the workers noticed a strange pattern; young girls, generally 10 to 13 years old, were disappearing. As the workers checked further, they discovered the girls were being abducted into brothels. They turned to police for help; later, they found out that some of the police themselves were operating the brothels. *(continued from reverse)* On the streets where you live, if you are like most American citizens, children are not forced into prostitution, elderly women are not tortured, nor are 13-year olds beaten and shot by soldiers for scrawling graffiti on a wall. But in the streets, the fields and the jails beyond our borders, the realities are different—and often hard to face. We don't want to believe what is before us. "Surely," we think, "these must be extraordinarily evil and isolated incidents."

Unfortunately, though incredibly evil, they are far too commonplace. In a recent survey of over 65 overseas ministries representing tens of thousands of overseas Christian workers, at least three-quarters said they had witnessed police and political corruption and abuse of power. One in three reported child prostitution, abusive child labor, the murder of street children as well as other atrocities toward the defenseless and innocent.

Yet despite extensive exposure to such suffering, missionaries, Christian doctors, and relief workers generally can do very little to bring justice to the victims. As guests in a foreign country, they are vulnerable to retaliation. They have neither the investigative nor the legal expertise to document the abuse they encounter, much less to seek help or justice.

To simply report the abuse can be a dangerous, difficult task. Too often, local authorities cannot be relied on for relief, or trusted to protect the witness. There is no specialized ministry for overseas Christian workers to turn to when people in their communities suffer oppression—no agency of fellow Christians with the experience, expertise and resources to whom they can entrust their concerns.

The abuses these workers witness surely remain burned into their hearts and souls. So they must in ours. With such difficult issues and overwhelming numbers, this is a problem so great that it may seem all one can do is turn away, avoid the issue, deal with it by not dealing with it. Until now.

—*International Justice Mission*

1. Je - ho - vah to my Lord has said, "Sit Thou at My right hand
2. A will - ing peo - ple in Thy day Of pow'r shall come to Thee.
3. The Lord at Thy right hand shall smite Earth's rul - ers in His wrath.

Un - til I make Thy foes a stool Where - on Thy feet may stand."
Thy youth ar - rayed in ho - li - ness Like morn - ing dew shall be.
A - mong the na - tions He shall judge; The slain shall fill His path.

Je - ho - vah shall from Zi - on send The scep - ter of Thy pow'r.
Je - ho - vah swore, and from His oath He nev - er will de - part;
In man - y lands He'll o - ver - throw Their kings with ru - in dread;

In bat - tle with Thine en - e - mies Be Thou the con - quer - or.
"Of the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek A priest Thou ev - er art."
And, march - ing, He'll drink from the brook And so lift up His head.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – meeting tonight, September 27, 5:30-7pm at the Alburgers (97 Oxford Rd., Milford, CT 06460). We'll do an inductive Bible study of the sermon passage; please BYO chair and dinner to eat while we study.

Thursday Night Prayer Meeting – 7-7:50pm

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](#) Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 Passcode: 665297

Exploring Church Membership – Thursdays, 8-9pm, 9/17, 10/1, 8, 15 & 22

We take five vows in joining a Presbyterian church—this class explores those vows, as well as some distinctives we strive to embody as a church.

[Zoom link](#) Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 Passcode: 665297 (same as prayer meeting)

Worship Location Schedule

– September 20, 27: [1 Shipyard Ln., Milford, CT 06460 \(Fowler Pavilion\)](#)

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

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