



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

October 4, 2020
19th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus Christ, in the Vision of Jacob's Ladder

Heaven and earth, the dwelling place of God and man,
Were one before the fall in Eden;
But now, as rebel sons and daughters,
We have been driven from the presence of an undefiled God
And heaven and earth are alienated and divided.

Thanks be to God who was not willing
To cast us out of his presence forever,
But came among us, To reconcile us to himself,
That heaven and earth might be reunited forever!

Bless the Lord for his covenant love:
He chose fallen Abraham to give birth to his people,
And Isaac, a father who played favorites,
to be son of the promise;
And to the scheming brother, Jacob,
God gave a revelation of the glory of his Son
Eighteen hundred years before he descended to save us,
Before he laid down his life for us,
Before he beat back the powers of death for us,
Before he ascended to glorify us
By bringing our humanness into heaven,
That in due time, heaven might descend to earth,
And all again be one!

.....

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Speak O Lord

Speak O Lord as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience
Holy reverence true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak O Lord and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak O Lord till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

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

Call to Worship I Timothy 1:15–17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1. As Ja - cob with trav - el was wea - ry one day, at
 2. This lad - der is long, it is strong and well made, has stood
 3. Come, let us as - cend! All may climb it who will; for the
 4. And when we ar - rive at the ha - ven of rest, we shall

night on a stone for a pil - low he lay; he saw in a
 hun - dreds of years and is not yet de - cayed; man - y mil - lions have
 an - gels of Ja - cob are guard - ing it still; and re - mem - ber, each
 hear the glad words, "Come up hith - er, ye blest, here are re - gions of

vi - sion a lad - der so high, that its foot was on
 climbed it and reached Si - on's hill, and thou - sands by
 step that by faith we pass o'er, some proph - et or
 light, here are man - sions of bliss." Oh, who would not

REFRAIN

earth and its top in the sky.
 faith are climb - ing it still. Al - le - lu - ia to Je - sus, who
 mar - tyr hath trod it be - fore.
 climb such a lad - der as this?

died on the tree, and hath raised up a lad - der of mer - cy for

me, and hath raised up a lad - der of mer - cy for me.

Invocation

Praise Hymn As Jacob with Travel Was Weary One Day

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Confession of Sin

O Lord Jesus Christ,
 We have not loved your appearing;
 We have wandered out of the narrow way that leads to life.

Some of us have sinned boldly, presuming upon your kindness.
 Others of us still fear your law, which rightly condemns us.
 But we have all forsaken our first love:
 not loving you with all our heart, our soul, our mind, our body

We have cheated, or indulged our laziness,
 or hated, or held a grudge,
 or lied, or felt sorry for ourselves.
 We are being choked by the cares of this world:
 its passions,
 its suppression of truth,
 its hypocrisy,
 its self-assurance—
 and we have resisted so poorly.

We have neglected or despised our neighbor,
or ourselves; our brothers and sisters here or elsewhere,
or the Lord who bought us.

Forgive us Father,
for the sake of your Beloved Son, who loved us and gave Himself up for us.

Forgive me dear Jesus,
and teach me what gratitude I owe you, that I may love your appearing
when you come again O My Lord. Amen.

Individual Confession

Absolution I Timothy 2:5–6

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 28:10–22

Thanksgiving Hymn Immanuel

From the squalor of a borrowed stable
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Savior of the human race
But the skies were filled
With the praise of heav'n
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the friend of sinners
Humble servant in the Father's hands
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit
Filled with mercy for the broken man
Yes He walked my road and He felt my pain
Joys and sorrows that I know so well
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again
I will follow my Immanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal
He was lifted on a cruel cross
He was punished for a world's transgressions
He was suffering to save the lost
He fights for breath He fights for me
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell
And with a shout our souls are free
Death defeated by Immanuel

Now He's standing in the place of honor
Crowned with glory on the highest throne
Interceding for His own beloved
'Til His Father calls to bring them home
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell
But the bride will run to her Lover's arms
Giving glory to Immanuel

Gospel Lesson John 1:43–51

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!

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New Testament Lesson 2 Corinthians 12:12-27

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

Response Hymn O Church Arise

O church arise and put your armour on
Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle cry is Love
Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valour
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for which He died
An inheritance of nations

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet
For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him

So Spirit come put strength in every stride
Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory

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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

Apostle's Creed (3rd century)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and
was buried.

He descended into Hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

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Coronation Hymn

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

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

Jesus and Jacob's Ladder

[The dream of the ladder foreshadows Christ because] the covenant of God was founded in Christ, and Christ himself was the eternal image of the Father, in which he manifested himself to the holy patriarchs.... For since men are alienated from God by sin, though he fills and sustains all things by his power, yet that communication by which he would draw us to himself is not perceived by us; but, on the other hand, so greatly are we at odds with God, that, regarding him as hostile to us, we, in our turn, flee from his presence. Moreover the angels, to whom is committed the guardianship of the human race, while strenuously applying themselves to their office, yet do not communicate with us in such a way that we become conscious of their presence. *It is Christ alone, therefore, who connects heaven and earth: he is the only Mediator who reaches from heaven down to earth; he is the medium through which the fulness of all heavenly blessing flows down to us, and through which we, in turn, ascend to God.* He it is who, being the head over angels, causes them to minister to his earthly members.

— John Calvin (1509-64), *Commentary on Genesis*

1. We are climb-ing Ja - cob's lad - der, We are
 2. Ev - 'ry round goes high - er, high - er, Ev - 'ry
 3. Sin - ner, do you love my Je - sus? Sin - ner,
 4. If you love him, why not serve him? If you
 5. We are climb-ing high - er, high - er, We are

climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der, We are climb - ing
 round goes high - er, high - er, Ev - 'ry round goes
 do you love my Je - sus? Sin - ner, do you
 love him, why not serve him? If you love him,
 climb - ing high - er, high - er, We are climb - ing

Ja - cob's lad - der, Sol - diers of the cross.
 high - er, high - er, Sol - diers of the cross.
 love my Je - sus? Sol - diers of the cross.
 why not serve him? Sol - diers of the cross.
 high - er, high - er, Sol - diers of the cross.

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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