



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

October 18, 2020
21st Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating The Three Offices of Christ: Jesus Our Priest

A priest mediates between man and God,
between man the rebel and God the Holy.
No priest of the Old Covenant
could ever care for God's people as Christ cared.
He, all sympathy and all compassion,
knows our weakness,
and offered himself up as sacrificial victim,
bearing wrath for our sake.
He, not born in the priestly line,
became our Great High Priest at the cross.
Bring now your sacrifices of praise
to him who continues to intercede for us!
Praise the high name of Jesus.

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days
Of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days
Of great trials
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice
In the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Chorus

Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call
So lift your voice
It's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days
Of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world
And we are the laborers
In Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord

Chorus

There is no God like Jehovah (repeat 6x)

Chorus

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

Call to Worship Romans 8:1:

There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Invocation

Old Testament Shadow Leviticus 16:2-7, 15-16a

Praise Hymn

Jesus My Great High Priest

Jesus, my great High Priest,
offered his blood and died;
my guilty conscience seeks
no sacrifice beside.
His powerful blood did once atone,
and now it pleads before the throne.

To this dear Surety's hand
will I commit my cause;
he answers and fulfils
his Father's broken laws.
Behold my soul at freedom set;
my Surety paid the dreadful debt.

My Advocate appears
for my defense on high;
the Father bows his ears
and lays his thunder by.
Not all that hell or sin can say
shall turn his heart, his love, away.

Should all the hosts of death
and powers of hell unknown
put their most dreadful forms
of rage and mischief on,
I shall be safe, for Christ displays
his conquering power and guardian grace.

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

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, ever-patient and full of pity,
we have sinned Lord, we have sinned against you.

We are wretched: we have sinned against you,
much and grievously, in pursuing vanities and lies.
We conceal nothing; we make no excuses.

We ascribe to you glory, O Lord,
but we denounce against ourselves all our sins.
Truly we have offended the Lord.
We have sinned, and perverted that which was right,
and have gained nothing.

And what shall we now say,
or with what defense shall we open our mouths?
What shall we answer, seeing we have done it?
Without plea, without excuse,
we are self-condemned, ever prone to ruin ourselves.
Unto you, O Lord, belongs righteousness,
but unto us, confusion of face.

O Christ, see our need, and have mercy on us,
for you are Mercy itself. Amen

Individual Confession

Absolution Hebrews 9:24-26

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own... But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Thanksgiving Hymn Before the Throne

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart (repeat)

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there

Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me (repeat)

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God (repeat)

I bow before the cross of Christ
And marvel at this love divine
God's perfect Son was sacrificed
To make me righteous in God's eyes
This river's depths I cannot know
But I can glory in its flood
The Lord Most High has bowed down low
And poured on me His glorious love (repeat)

New Testament Substance Hebrews 9:1-12

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
Holy Father Son and Spirit
Holy Communion Three in One

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

New Testament Lesson Acts 16:11-40

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 19 | Curran Bishop

Response Hymn O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

— 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 Shorter Catechism (1647), question 25:
How dose Christ execute the office of a priest?

Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

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

1. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, Vast, un - mea - sured, bound - less, free,
 2. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus - Spread His praise from shore to shore!
 3. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, Love of ev - ery love the best;

Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean In its full - ness o - ver me.
 How He lov - eth, ev - er lov - eth, Chang - eth nev - er, nev - er - more;
 'Tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing, 'Tis a ha - ven sweet of rest.

Un - der - neath me, all a - round me, Is the cur - rent of Thy love;
 How He watch - es o'er His loved ones, Died to call them all His own;
 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;

Lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward To my glo - rious rest a - bove.
 How for them He in - ter - ced - eth, Watch - eth o'er them from the throne.
 And it lifts me up to glo - ry, For it lifts me up to Thee.

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

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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.

REFLECTION

On Why We Need a Priest

Modern people cling to God as Love, and well they should. He is. But we're skittish about God as Holy. If you could choose between the holiness of God and the love of God, which would you take and which would you leave? So would I. But are we permitted to choose? We do not author God the way the author of a novel shapes characters as he or she sees fit. God is what he is. And he tells us that he is holy and that he is love, together, in a profound mystery.

His holiness is why we need a priest; his love is why he sent his Son to take human flesh to be one for us. A priest stands between God and human beings. He represents to us the demands of God who is pure; and, on our behalf, before the face of God the Just, he offers sacrifice to cover the guilt of our corrupted hearts and unjust lives.

All this flies in the face of the modern notion that God's love is an indulgent sort of thing. The modern world has tamed God. Of course, he is Father, with a heart full of love; but he is also Judge who demands payment for our offenses against the Divine majesty, of which all the beauty we see in the world is but a pale reflection. To say that God is holy is to say not only that he is morally pure, but also that the splendor of his being is far above our splendor. And it means that we, who sin and stain the splendor God gave us when he made us in his image, cannot be at peace with God without an advocate, a mediator, a priest.

But that's what Christ is for us; that's what we celebrate this morning! We need no longer dread the holiness of God nor deny it. When we come to Jesus in humble faith, owning our guilt instead of papering it over with smiles and respectable behavior, Jesus becomes for us a High Priest who pleads before the bar of Divine justice not our own moth-eaten righteousness but his own perfect life and sacrificial death on the cross.

So if you're trusting in Christ this morning, rebuke your fear, turn your back on your guilty conscience, laugh at anything that shames you. If Christ is pleading your case, who cares who or what is against you?

— Ron Lutjens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – meeting tonight, October 18, 5:30-7pm at the Alburgers' (97 Oxford Road, Milford, CT 06460). We'll enjoy community together while having a BYO picnic dinner.

Thursday Night Prayer Meeting – 7-7:50pm

In the midst of pandemic, political chaos and social distancing 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

October Sundays: Fowler Memorial Building, [45 New Haven Ave, Milford, CT 06460](#)

Contact us

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

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