



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

November 15, 2020  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating Our Justification in Jesus Christ, By Faith Resting**

O Christ, you have done for us  
What we cannot do for ourselves:  
You washed the spot of sin from our hands,  
Answered the self-accusation of our hearts,  
And satisfied the Holy Wrath that stood against us.

Trusting, O God, I come.  
Despairing of my never-finished works,  
I rest in the finished work of him  
Who lived and died in my place.

Fill me with joy as I worship,  
With a sure confidence that by childlike faith,  
The perfection of Jesus Christ has become my perfection. Thanks be to God!

.....

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

**Gathering Hymn**    Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

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

**Call to Worship**    Romans 5:1–2:

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,  
**we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**  
Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand,  
**and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

1 Come ye sin - ners, poor and nee - dy, Weak and woun - ded, sick and sore;  
 2 Come, ye thir - sty, come and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;  
 3 Come ye wea - ry, hea - vy - la - den, Lost and ru - ined by the fall;  
 4 Let not cons - cience make you lin - ger, Nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;

Je - sus read - y stands to save you, Full of pi - ty, love and pow'r.  
 True be - lief and true re - pen - tance, Ev' - ry grace that brings you nigh.  
 If you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, You will ne - ver come at all.  
 All the fit - ness He re - qui - reth Is to feel your need of Him.

*Chorus*

I will a - rise and go to Je - sus, He will em - brace me in His arms;

In the arms of my dear Sa - vior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

1. A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that saved a wretch like me!  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;  
 3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;  
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his Word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 he will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.

5. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
 and mortal life shall cease,  
 I shall possess within the veil  
 a life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
 bright shining as the sun,  
 we've no less days to sing God's praise  
 than when we've first begun.

Invocation

Praise Hymn

Amazing Grace

## **Confession of Sin**

And now, Lord, what is our hope?  
Truly our hope is even in you,  
if your lovingkindness cover  
the multitude of our offenses.

O remember what my substance is,  
that I am dust, but precious in your site:  
the work of your hands,  
the likeness of your face,  
the cost of your blood,  
a name from your name,  
a sheep from your pasture,  
a child of your covenant.

Do not despise, O Lord, the work of your own hands,  
but look upon the face of your children,  
and remember the covenant of old,  
sealed with the blood of your one and only son;  
and credit his payments to our great debt,  
and drown our guilt, as in the deep sea.

For we are yours, O Father,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *Individual Confession*

## **Confession Hymn**

From the Depths of Woe (verse 1)

From depths of woe I raise to Thee  
The voice of lamentation  
Lord turn a gracious ear to me  
And hear my supplication  
If Thou iniquities dost mark  
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark  
O who shall stand before Thee

**Absolution**                  Psalm 145:8–9

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
    slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
The LORD is good to all,  
    and his mercy is over all that he has made.

**Old Testament Lesson**      Psalm 32

**Thanksgiving Hymn**              From the Depths of Woe (verses 2-5)

To wash away the crimson stain  
Grace grace alone availeth  
Our works alas are all in vain  
In much the best life faileth  
No man can glory in Thy sight  
All must alike confess Thy might  
And live alone by mercy

Therefore my trust is in the Lord  
And not in mine own merit  
On Him my soul shall rest  
His word upholds my fainting spirit  
His promised mercy is my fort  
My comfort and my sweet support  
I wait for it with patience

What though I wait the live-long night  
And till the dawn appeareth  
My heart still trusteth in His might  
It doubteth not nor feareth  
Do thus O ye of Israel's seed  
Ye of the Spirit born indeed  
And wait till God appeareth

Though great our sins and sore our woes  
His grace much more aboundeth  
His helping love no limit knows  
Our utmost need it soundeth  
Our shepherd good and true is He  
Who will at last our Israel free  
For all their sin and sorrow

**Gospel & Epistle Lesson** Luke 18:9–14 & Romans 3:9-26

### **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!

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

**New Testament Lesson** Acts 18: 1-23

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

**Sermon** The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 22 | Curran Bishop

## **Response Hymn**    Death Where is Your Sting?

For God so loved the world He gave His Son  
To bear the weight of sin He bled for us  
From Heaven's highest place He took the fall  
And there was just one life laid down for all

### **Chorus**

Death where is your sting  
Grave where is your victory  
He's alive He's alive  
He is risen

Behold the vacant tomb that held our Lord  
That grave became the stage for Heaven's glory  
Behold the Risen King in open skies  
He is the Resurrection He is the Life

### **Chorus**

No weapon formed against us will prosper  
The gates of hell won't stand  
Your Church will rise from glory to glory  
In the name of Jesus

### **Chorus**

— 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/](https://give.pcamna.org/to/1708/)



**Confession of Faith**            Westminster Confession of Faith (1647), Chapter 11.1

Those whom God effectually calls he also freely justifies; not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous: not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone; nor by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness; but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ unto them, they receiving and resting on him and his righteousness by faith; which faith they have not of themselves, it is the gift of God.

**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 —

**Coronation Hymn**            My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

**Benediction**            2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Capo 3: F(D)

C(A)

F(D)

B<sup>b</sup>(G)

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and  
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -  
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the  
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

C(A)

F(D)

C(A)

F(D)

righ - teous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but  
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my  
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he  
 him be found; dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

B<sup>b</sup>(G)

C(A)

F(D)

REFRAIN

B<sup>b</sup>(G)

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all  
 then is all my hope and stay.  
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

F(D)

C(A)

F(D)

B<sup>b</sup>(G)

F(D)

C<sup>7</sup>(A<sup>7</sup>)

F(D)

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

## REFLECTION

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### **Is This ALL There Is?**

My name is Jim McKee and I'm a recovering "performa-holic." I am a highly focused and goal-oriented person by nature. For the most of my adult life, I've tended to work sixty to eighty hours a week (and felt guilty and apprehensive when I didn't). It was only a few years ago that I began to see the dark side of my drivenness. My sense of identity, value, and acceptance was rooted in what I could do—and I could do a lot.

**Tired and bored.** In the early '90s, I was working hard and being "successful," but I was feeling increasingly joyless and powerless—and just really, really tired. Where was the joy, abundance, freedom, power, and passion the Bible seemed to promise?

**Fast forwarding....** to cut to the chase, after a long, and at times painful pilgrimage, both Pam and I are learning what it means to "keep in step with the Spirit." Two huge steps in the journey were doing the Sonship course and going on a short-term missions trip to Southall, London.

**Sonship.** Taking Sonship was a real eye opener (and heart melter) for us. We saw our sins in a big way—and yet, the more sin we saw, the more we saw that we had an even bigger Savior who could forgive and transform us!

There was great joy flowing out of that repentance! As Pam and I saw the truth—that we were weak, sinful and needed Jesus every day—our desire to share Christ with other big sinners grew! We became more and more involved in "grace discipling," and as grace grew in us, so did our desire to give ourselves away.

**The second step.** The direction of our ministry changed completely in 1996, following a missions trip to London with World Harvest, hosted by Jack and Rose Marie Miller.

The streets of Southall were like a refining fire. My heart was gripped by fear at the prospect of talking to Asians about Christ—and here I was—a pastor! But I was too proud to admit it!

**Have fun!** "Expect great things in Southall," Jack said, "because our power-source is Christ! There is nothing we can do, so relax! Have fun, it is the work of the Holy Spirit." Jack then went on to admit to the same struggle as mine, and his need to trust the Spirit to help overcome his fears.

That was a decisive moment. I was deeply convicted and saw clearly that I hadn't been able to trust what my theology tells me is true. My head told me one thing, my gut told me something else!

Again...repent and believe! Once again, I found myself repenting of my unbelief and looking to Christ for what we needed. My faith, and Pam's soared as the week ended in Southall and we

[over]

saw God do wondrous things in answer to prayer. Changed hearts—Asian hearts—and our own, really is the work of the Holy Spirit.

**What all this means is...** The whole Christian life is a call to walk before God and my neighbor every day in the posture of repentance and faith. The joy, abundance, freedom, power and passion that the Bible promises can be known and experienced every day, but only as we repent and believe the gospel.

This applies not only to my Christian life, but to my vocation as well. Whatever the relationship or task I am involved with, whether it's with my wife and kids, a Hindu shopkeeper in London, developing renewal material or managing senior staff at the Sending Center, the paradigm is the same: repent and believe... "for all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me, go therefore, into all the earth and preach the gospel."

—Jim McKee (1999)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** will meet tonight, November 15, 4-5:30pm. Since the cold and rain means we'll need to meet indoors we will meet in several smaller groups to protect each other. Please RSVP to [info@cpcmilford.org](mailto:info@cpcmilford.org) and we'll let the sorting hat script assign us between houses. We'll alternate between this & all meeting at Fowler for Bible study.

### **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."

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

### **Contact us**

203.812.9928 or [info@cpcmilford.org](mailto:info@cpcmilford.org); find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/CPCMilford](https://facebook.com/CPCMilford) or visit us online at [cpcmilford.org](http://cpcmilford.org)

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