



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

November 22, 2020
26th Sunday of Pentecost

REFLECTION

Celebrating Our Sanctification in Jesus Christ, By Faith Working

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ,
who takes our condemnation
and gives us his righteousness when we look away
from our performance and trust his at the cross.
Thanks be to God who thus justifies us by a faith
which quietly rests rather than feverishly works!
But thanks be to him, too, who sanctifies us—
Who presses holiness into our character—
by a faith which works rather than rests.
O God, make us ever confident that Christ
by his Spirit is in us to empower our feeble efforts,
that we might grow into the character of our Lord.
O God, teach me what gratitude I owe you,
so that wrestling my body
into submission to your righteousness
will not be a burden but a great high privilege
of being co-worker with you:
as you purify me, as you change me,
as you love me, as you use me,
for Christ's sake, whose I am.
Alleluia and Amen!

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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1. Come, Chris - tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;
 he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 on heav - en's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

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

Call to Worship

Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, being rich in mercy,

because of the great love with which he loved us,

even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Invocation

Praise Hymn

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/2. The first system includes four verses of lyrics. The second system includes two verses of lyrics. Chord symbols are written above the treble staff.

1. O for a thou- sand tongues to sing my great Re- deem - er's praise,
2. My gra- cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;
4. He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, he sets the pris - 'ner free;

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
his blood can make the foul - est clean, his blood a - vailed for me.

5. He speaks and, list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.

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6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosen'd tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Old Testament Lesson Joshua 1:1-11

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

Confession of Sin

Confession Hymn O Come and Mourn With Me A While

O come and mourn with me awhile,
O come ye to the Savior's side
O come, together let us mourn,
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

Seven times He spake seven words of love;
And all three hours His silence cried
For mercy on the souls of men;
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

Chorus

O love of God! O sin of man!
In this dread act Your strength is tried;
And victory remains with love;
Jesus our Lord is crucified!

O break, O break, hard heart of mine!
Thy weak self-love and guilty pride
His Pilate and His Judas were:
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

A broken heart, a fount of tears,
Ask, and they will not be denied;
A broken heart love's cradle is:
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

Chorus

Individual Confession

Absolution

Romans 8:9–13

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Thanksgiving Hymn

Jesus I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health, Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm, Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.

New Testament Lesson Galatians 5:16–25

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 —

New Testament Lesson Acts 18:24-19:20

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 23 | Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Establish the Works of Our Hands

If You don't build it we labor in vain
Without Your Spirit we stand with no strength
I know my life is passing away
But the works of Your hands are what will remain

Chorus

Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us
O Lord establish the work of our hands (repeat)

Teach us to number the length of our days
Pour out Your power we'll pour out Your praise
Teach us to run to finish the race
For only what's done in love will remain

Chorus

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (repeat)

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 (1647), Chapter 13

They who are effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified, really and personally, through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them; the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, and the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified, and they more and more quickened and strengthened, in all saving graces, to the practice of true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

This sanctification is throughout in the whole person, yet imperfect in this life; there abides still some remnants of corruption in every part, from which arises a continual and irreconcilable war, the flesh lusting against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh.

In this war, although the remaining corruption for a time may much prevail, yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome; and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear 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.

The Lord's Prayer (Lascoe)

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread, Forgive our debts as we forgive
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from all evil
For Thine is the kingdom, Thine is the power
Thine is the glory, Forever and ever
Amen 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.

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Coronation Hymn

Abide with Me

Benediction

I Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1. A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide; the dark - ness
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; earth's joys grow
 3. I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour; what but thy
 4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless: ills have no
 5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes; shine through the

deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide: when oth - er help - ers fail, and
 dim, its glo - ries pass a - way; change and de - cay in all a -
 • grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r? Who like thy - self my guide and
 weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness. Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy
 gloom, and point me to the skies: heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain

com - forts flee, help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 round I see; O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 • stay can be? Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 vic - to - ry? I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 shad - ows flee: in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

REFLECTION

The Work Project

The Haunted Heart: The heart is a maze that only God can solve (Jeremiah 17:9-10). Computers can't decipher its floor plan. We modestly admit we don't know someone else's heart, but the truth is we can't even know our own. Do you always know why you choose chocolate over vanilla? Why one day your passions sizzle and another you're a dead leaf in the wind? Can you number all the events and images that impress your heart and make it lean this way or that? Haven't you been surprised by the insincerity and even intrigue you've found in your heart?

But the heart is more than complicated, and unsearchable: it is "deceitful above all things" (verse 9). Every night Tom Brokaw tells us about shady politics and business scams. People finding loopholes in the law to use their sweat-earned money to build stately pleasure domes in Zanadu. But the sleaziest back-room Mafia deal can't equal the deceitfulness in your heart. The heart is "deceitful above all things."

Do you doubt it? Think how fickle you are. One day you're a sage, the next a clown. You can be open and cheery or reserved and gloomy, easy to get along with or a real crank, romantic or frosty. One day Jesus is all the world to you; the next, you love the world more than King Midas did.

And think of your inconsistencies. Your mind says tithing is right, and your will puts the money in the plate—but all the while you wish God weren't so demanding. Or you know that secret communion with God is a feast for your soul, and you long for it—but you can't roll out of bed, or if you do, your mind zooms everywhere in the universe except to heaven. Or your mind knows that lust is evil and dangerous, but you put yourself to sleep at night imagining a weekend in Monterey with the hunk two apartments down.

The Hidden Horrors: This unsearchable, deceitful heart is where sin hides. The Preacher said, "The hearts of men, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live" (Ecclesiastes 9:3). Jesus called the heart the fountain of sin (Matthew 15:19), and a treasure chest where we sock away evil (Luke 6:45). Put all this together and you have a scene no director could stage....

No Surrender: Never think for a minute that the war against sin is over in this life. There isn't even a cease-fire. Many generals have been surprised because they were careless after a victory. Countless believers have been ambushed on the heels of a giant step forward in faith. David, for example, lived a long life of devotion and duty to God, and saw mercy on mercy from God's hands; then sin tiptoed up behind him in the dark and stabbed him in the back.

If you violently war against your flesh, you'll win ground. It will grow weak, and you'll grow in grace into the image of Christ. Still the work has to be endless as long as we're in this world. If you cut the flesh any slack, you'll watch it regroup and revive. You may even end up worse off than you were before (compare Luke 11:24-26).

— From *The Enemy Within*, Kris Lundgaard (1998)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group will meet tonight, November 22, 4-5:30pm at the Fowler Building (45 New Haven Ave, Milford, CT 06460; parking at I Shipyard Ln., Milford, CT 06460--across the parking lot from the pavilion). We'll do an inductive Bible study and enjoy time together.

All-Congregations Call to Prayer: Mercy in Days of Trouble: Our larger church is having a meeting across our congregations tonight at 8pm for a special joint prayer service held on zoom.

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/94341323233?pwd=RUxib2hpc3NmUWtYZFU5cXkrV2Fldz09>
Meeting ID: 943 4132 3233 Passcode: cpcsc

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; find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/CPCMilford](https://www.facebook.com/CPCMilford) or visit us online at cpcmilford.org

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