



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

December 27, 2020
1st Sunday of Christmas

REFLECTION

Celebrating Our Messiah: The Name of Jesus

You are to give him the name, "Jesus."
Praise be to the Lord for Gabriel's announcement
that he who is born Messiah goes by the name,
"God saves."

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
that name which is above every name in rank and honor;
For no other name can be found under heaven and
among men that has the power to save us.
Come adore the Christ child this Christmastide;
He who lay in a manger as infant
now rules the universe as Lord.
Alleluia!

.....

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

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

Call to Worship John 1:1-5, 9, 14:

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through him,
and without him was not any thing made that was made.**
In him was life, **and the life was the light of men.**
The light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness has not overcome it.**
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."**

Dm A Dm Bb Bb Dm A Dm

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may, for
 2. In Beth - le - hem in Ju - dah this bless - ed babe was born, and
 3. From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came, and
 4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind, and
 5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place, and

5 Dm A Dm Bb Bb Dm A D Gm F

Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior was born up - on this day, to save us all from
 laid with - in a man - ger up - on this bless - ed morn: for which his moth - er
 un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same, how that in Beth - le -
 left their flocks a - feed - ing in tem - pest, storm, and wind, and went to Beth - le -
 with true love and broth - er - hood each oth - er now em - brace; this ho - ly tide of

10 F7 F Dm C C Dm F F A7

Refrain

Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 Ma - ry did noth - ing take in scorn.
 hem was born the Son of God by name. O tid - ings of com - fort and
 hem straight - way, the bless - ed babe to find.
 Christ - mas all oth - ers doth de - face.

15 Dm G7 C Dm F F/A F A7 Dm

joy, com - fort and joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King”;
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, o - pening to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!
love di - vine is reign-ing o'er us, bring-ing all with - in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ, our Broth - er — all who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!
sing - ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain call us to re - joice in Thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.
joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward, in the tri - umph song of life.



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

Sermon Text Isaiah 12

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon The Book of Emmanuel, 5 | Curran Bishop

Response Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High

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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 The Nicene Creed (AD 325)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.

His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the
Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic
church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the
resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

(*that is, Jesus' Church in all time and place)

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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.

O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide

O Savior, rend the heavens wide
Come down, come down, with mighty stride
Unbar the gates, the doors break down
Unbar the way to heaven's crown

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 Name of Jesus

Benediction from Philippians 2:9–11, 4:23

God has highly exalted Jesus and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

7

1. At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
 2. At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
 3. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 4. In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5. Broth - ers, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,

ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now.
 all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
 • from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true:
 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry, with his an - gel train;

'Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
 • faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour:
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

7

who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
 • brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

REFLECTION

Christmastide?

The early church fathers developed the church calendar as a means of directing the weekly worship of the Church through a broad selection of doctrinal topics. This is helpful because it allows us to be intentional in ensuring that we engage the complexity and diversity of what God has revealed to us about Himself. The calendar contributed to a sense of “catholicity”—the worldwide Church of Jesus through all time and space—as believers worshiped together around the same Scriptural themes around the world. They also developed the calendar as a means of setting the rhythm of the seasonal lives of the people of God to be shaped around the gospel story, as opposed to the pagan and animistic seasonal rhythms available in their culture.

By the time of the Reformation, the medieval church had turned the calendar into a compulsory system the observation of which was a part of the system of earning salvation which the church erroneously taught. Responding to this, many of the reformers rejected many aspects of the church calendar.

Today, as the Church functions in a pluralistic society which more closely resembles the Roman Empire of the early church’s context, we confront new problems. The sentimentalism which the Church often retreated into in the face of Modernism has led to the familiar “Hallmark® calendar” which much of our culture observes. We want to lean against this trend by using an older and more nuanced tool of the pre-modern church to orient our worship to God in all of His complexity and nuance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group will meet tonight, December 27, 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.

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

Helping Without Hurting – Thursday Adult discipleship classes via zoom will resume in January (date TBD) from 8-9pm with a look at how the nature and character of God shapes the mercy ministry of His Church as explored in the revolutionary book, *When Helping Hurts*.

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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