



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

February 21, 2021
1st Sunday of Lent

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus, Divine Son of Man: Bound for Jerusalem, Determined to Die

Revealed in his Transfiguration to be Messiah—
the glorious “Son of Man” in Daniel’s vision of old—
Jesus Christ sets his face toward Jerusalem
knowing full well the rejection that awaits him.

Stalwart in his determination to obey,
fixed in his purpose to be used by God,
He climbed the steep ascent to heaven
through peril, toil, and pain.

By the resolve of his will and the constancy of his love,
he who was made like us, became for us
what our brother Adam failed to be—
a true and obedient son,
acceptable to the Father.

O Sing with the Jerusalem above
A song of praise to the Lamb.
Alleluia!

.....

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

Arise My Soul Arise

Arise, my soul, arise,
shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice,
in my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands,
Before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

Chorus

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise

He ever lives above,
for me to intercede;
His all redeeming love,
His precious blood, to plead;
His blood atoned for every race,
His blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Chorus

Five bleeding wounds He bears;
received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers;
they strongly plead for me:
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

Chorus

The Father hears Him pray,
His dear anointed One;
He cannot turn away
the presence of His Son;
The Spirit answers to the blood,
The Spirit answers to the blood
And tells me I am born of God.

Chorus

My God is reconciled;
His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child;
I can no longer fear
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.

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

Call to Worship Psalm 125:1-2

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 50:4-9

Praise Hymn In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied

For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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

Confession of Sin

Isaiah 59:1-4

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;
but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.
For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity;
your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness.
No one enters suit justly; **no one goes to law honestly;**
they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies,
they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.

Individual Confession

Absolution

Isaiah 59:15b-20

The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment. So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the LORD drives. "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD.

Thanksgiving Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This?

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 16:21-28

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 —

Sermon Text

Acts 24

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!**Sermon**

The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 29 | Curran Bishop

♯ Dm Am C Em Dm C Dm Dm⁷ C 7 F

1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what
 2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
 3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

C Bm Am G Am G C Dm C F C F C

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm

Dm C Am Bm⁷ C Dm Am Em Dm C

this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my
 Lamb, who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

Dm Dm⁷ C 7 F C Bm Am G Am G C Dm 7

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

Response Hymn Simple Living

A rich young man came to ask of Christ
Good teacher will You tell me
What must I do for eternal life
I've kept Your laws completely
Sell all you have give to the poor
Then heaven's treasure shall be yours
How hard for those who are rich on earth
To gain the wealth of heaven

Now Jesus sat by the offering gate
As people brought their money
The rich they filled the collection plate
The widow gave a penny
Now she's out-given all the rest
Her gift was all that she possessed
Not what you give but what you keep
Is what the King is counting

O teach me Lord to walk this road
The road of simple living
To be content with what I own
And generous in giving
And when I cling to what I have
Please wrest it quickly from my grasp
I'd rather lose all the things of earth
To gain the things of heaven

Yes I'd rather lose all the things of earth
To gain the things of heaven

— 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

Heidelberg Catechism, 1563 (Questions 52 & 56)

Christians, what do you believe?

In all my distress and persecution, I turn my eyes to the heavens and confidently await as Judge the very One who has already stood trial in my place before God and so has removed the whole curse from me. I believe that God, because of Christ's atonement, will never hold against me any of my sins nor my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather in his grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.

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.

Jesus Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when
you come into your kingdom.
(repeat 3x)

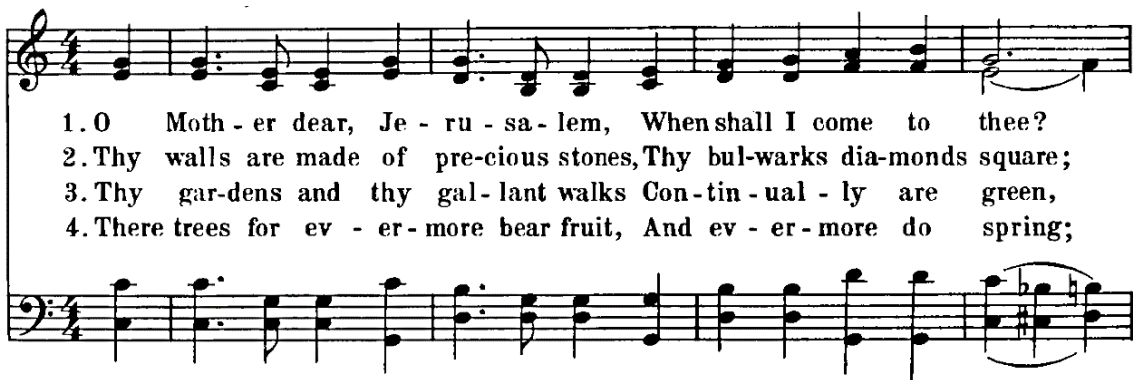
Prayer for those searching

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.

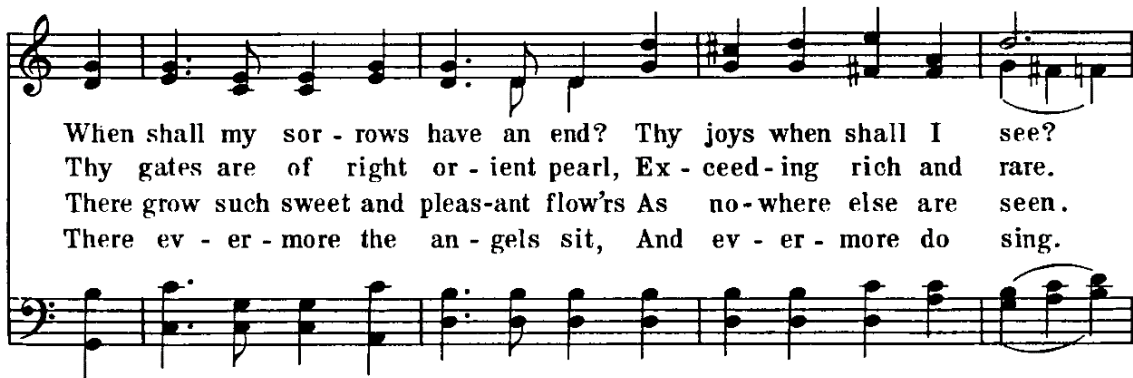
— God + calls + cleanses + speaks + strengthens + sends —

Coronation Hymn

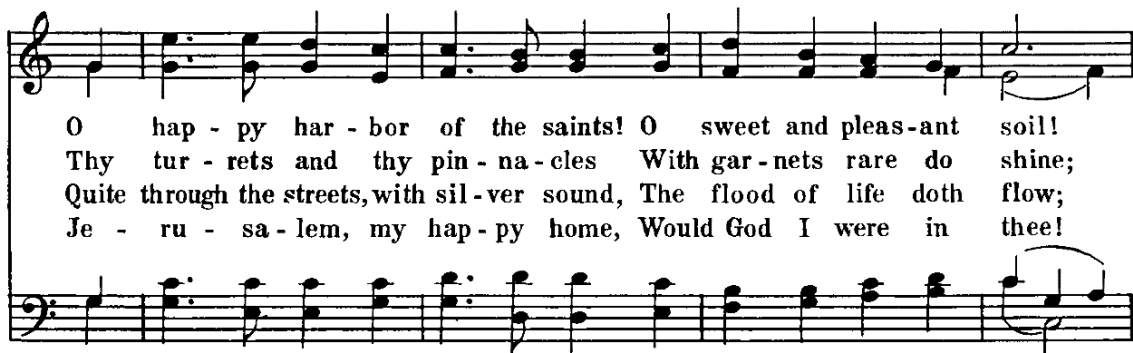
O Mother Dear Jerusalem



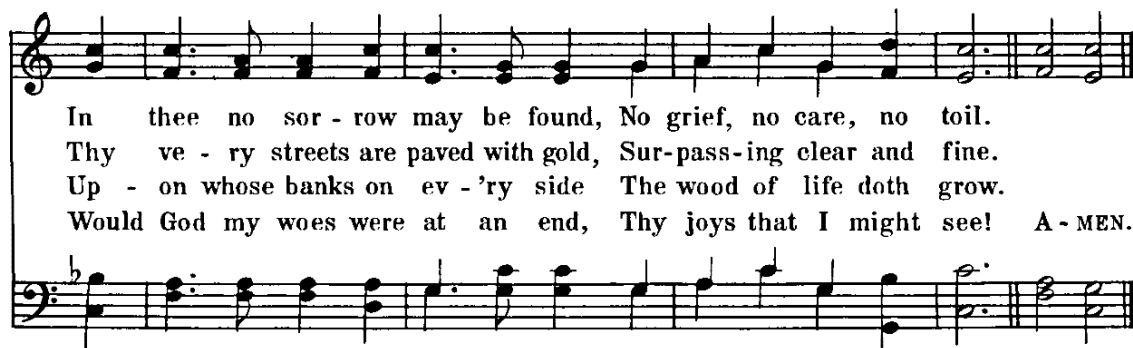
1. O Moth - er dear, Je - ru - sa - lem, When shall I come to thee?
 2. Thy walls are made of pre-cious stones, Thy bul-warks dia-monds square;
 3. Thy gar-dens and thy gal-lant walks Con-tin-u-al - ly are green,
 4. There trees for ev - er - more bear fruit, And ev - er - more do spring;



When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
 Thy gates are of right or - ient pearl, Ex - ceed - ing rich and rare.
 There grow such sweet and pleas - ant flow'rs As no - where else are seen.
 There ev - er - more the an - gels sit, And ev - er - more do sing.



O hap - py har - bor of the saints! O sweet and pleas - ant soil!
 Thy tur - rets and thy pin - na - cles With gar - nets rare do shine;
 Quite through the streets, with sil - ver sound, The flood of life doth flow;
 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, Would God I were in thee!



In thee no sor - row may be found, No grief, no care, no toil.
 Thy ve - ry streets are paved with gold, Sur - pass - ing clear and fine.
 Up - on whose banks on ev - 'ry side The wood of life doth grow.
 Would God my woes were at an end, Thy joys that I might see! A - MEN.

Benediction Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Christ Our Sympathy, Christ Our Victory

For the next six weeks our liturgical themes will prepare us for a fresh celebration of the greatest revolution in history: the weekend a Jewish peasant rolled back the tyranny of death and set the world right-side-up again.

As we have been focusing our worship for much of the new year on Jesus as the incarnate Son of God, so now we will celebrate him as the divine Son of Man. When Daniel saw a vision of the glorified Christ (Daniel 7) and described him as “one like a son of man,” he was prophesying that the one whose face shined like the sun—that is, with all the splendor of God’s being—was also a human being. Christ came down that our human nature might be raised up and actually be given a share in God’s nature (2 Peter 1:3-4) That’s what all those who love Christ to the end are promised. Do you believe it?

But before the ecstasy comes the agony. Our salvation is an absolutely free gift but it is won by Christ’s pain, appropriated by simple, child-like trust on our part, and confirmed by Christ’s power working in us, enabling us to follow in his footsteps and bear up under trouble and temptation—not perfectly, but part of what it means that Jesus is human is that he was and continues to be our great Sympathizer. He entered so fully into the pain and brokenness of our fallen world that he knows—not because he is God but because he was and remains human—exactly what afflicts and wounds us. He knows this not generally but specifically. Are you tormented in temptation by desire for things that you know it would be wrong to get—say, revenge, or unlawful sexual pleasures? So was Jesus; he suffered when he was tempted. Do you carry great sadness in your heart, the accumulation of a hundred injuries and disappointments? Jesus knows how you feel: he was a man of sorrows. Do you often feel alone, even in a crowd? Jesus knows what it’s like: he remembers being all alone, his disciples gone or else hopelessly out of touch with what was happening.

Each of the next six weeks we will focus on one particular thing Jesus suffered in which he can sympathize with us: Christ, the Divine Son of Man.

Let Christ’s deep sympathy with you be an encouragement to you for whatever is hard right now. But remember, Jesus not only feels all that’s wrong with the world; he began to overcome it when he set his face like flint, as Isaiah once prophesied he would (Isaiah 50:7), bound for Jerusalem, resolved to obey God, determined to die.

If you trust that Jesus endured all of it for you, then you can know why you’re here this morning: to thank him.

– Adapted from a reflection by Ron Lutjens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – Meets tonight, February 21, 4-5:30pm. We will meet in several smaller groups to protect each other. Please RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org and we'll let the sorting hat script assign us between houses to enjoy (socially distanced) time together.

Women's Bible Study – Every-other-Tues. 7:30-9 pm, in person and on zoom (this week, Feb 23), working through 1st John. Please RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org. [Link](#) to the study guide (\$2.50). [Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 828 6871 9345 Passcode: 246223

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 – Every-other-Thursday, (next week, March 4), 8-9 pm We'll look at how the nature and character of God shapes the mercy ministry of His Church using the book *When Helping Hurts*.
[Zoom link](#) (same as prayer meeting) Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 Passcode: 665297

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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