



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

February 22, 2021
2nd Sunday of Lent

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus, Divine Son of Man: Sorely Tempted

However often we find ourselves
“tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,”
Jesus Christ remains the Friend of those who cling to him.
Taunted in the wilderness, tempted in Gethsemane,
he withstood the appeal of evil and remained
the light of goodness in the enveloping darkness.

Blessed be our Lord Jesus;
Praise be to our Elder Brother, our Friend!
He knows our weakness, and loves us;
He carried our failures to the cross, and covered them.
By his life he has become our Sympathy;
By his death, our Victory.
In the presence of his congregation,
sing him your praises!

.....

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering 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.

D Bm G A D Bm G A D

1. Je - sus, what a friend for sin - ners, Je - sus, lov - er of my soul.
 2. Je - sus what a strength in weak - ness, Let me hide my - self in Him.
 3. Je - sus, what a help in sor - row, While the bil - lows o'er me roll.

5 D Bm G A D Bm G A D

Friends may fail me foes as - sail me, He my Sa - vior makes me whole,
 Temp - ted, tried, and some - times, fail - ing, He, my strength, my vic - try wins.
 Ev - en when my heart is break - ing, He, my com - fort, helps my soul.

9 D Bm Em A D Bm Em A

Chorus: Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sa - vior! Hal - le - lu - jah! What a friend!

13 D A D A D D/F# G D A D

Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, He is with me to the end.

4. Jesus, what a guide and keeper!
 While the tempest still is high,
 Storms about me, night o'ertakes me,
 He my pilot, hears my cry.

5. Jesus, I do now receive Him,
 More than all in Him I find,
 He hath granted me forgiveness,
 I am His and He is mine

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

Call to Worship

Hebrews 2:14-15, 17-3:1:

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession

Invocation

Praise Hymn

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners

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

Old Testament Lesson

Numbers 14:26-35

Confession of Sin

O Spirit, I have grieved you.

I have not had the courage to live by faith,

To trust that Christ has become my righteousness.

I have tried to be my own righteousness;

And for fear of sinning, I have been afraid to live.

I am anxiety ridden about my weakness.

I am bent on avoiding sin – not out of love for Christ,
but because I do not like to be wrong.

And afraid of hoping for too little of your power,

I have demanded too much for this life.

I am easily intimidated by the spiritual victories of others,

too often running from teacher to teacher

searching for secrets of spiritual success.

I have not set my sights on the life to come.

I live too much with the present struggles and temptations
and not in the joy of the Lord,
Who has paid all that I owe You.
I do not live enough for the Day,
when what is mortal in me shall be swallowed up by Life.
Oh spirit of Christ, have mercy on me. Amen.

Individual Confession

Absolution

I John 5:1–5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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 Lesson Matthew 4:1-11

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 —

Sermon Text Acts 25

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

Sermon The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 30 | Curran Bishop

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let this blest as -
 3. My sin— O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!—my sin, not in
 4. O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled

sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
 sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,
 part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
 back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,

REFRAIN

“It is well, it is well with my soul.”
 and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well
 praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well
 “E - ven so”— it is well with my soul.

with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.
 with my soul;

Response Hymn It is Well with My Soul

— 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 Confession of Faith (1647)

Q. 48. How did Christ humble himself in his life?

A. Christ humbled himself in his life, by subjecting himself to the law, which he perfectly fulfilled; and by conflicting with the indignities of the world, temptations of Satan, and infirmities in his flesh, whether common to the nature of man, or particularly accompanying that his low condition.

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, When You Come Into Your Kingdom

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.

Chord progression: Eb, Fm/Eb, Bb, Eb

Jesus, remember me when you come in to your kingdom.

Chord progression: Cm, Fm/Ab, Bb, Eb

Jesus, remember me when you come in to your kingdom.

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

Coronation Hymn

O to See the Dawn (Power of the Cross)

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
 Christ on the road to Calvary
 Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
 Nailed to a cross of wood

Chorus:

This the power of the cross
 Christ became sin for us
 Took the blame bore the wrath
 We stand forgiven at the cross

Oh to see the pain written on Your face
 Bearing the awesome weight of sin
 Every bitter thought every evil deed
 Crowning Your bloodstained brow

Chorus

(This the power of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross)

Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the victory cry

Chorus

Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through Your suffering I am free
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love

Chorus 2:

This the power of the cross
Son of God slain for us
What a love what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross

Benediction Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

REFLECTION

The Cosmic Battle

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.... Matthew 4:1-2

We begin to feel that our own fate depends on the outcome of this struggle between Christ and the devil. And so we will try to pay due heed to what is said to us in the wilderness and to what happens to us. For our destiny is at stake: Jesus Christ who is fighting here is not only 'the mirror of the divine heart' (Martin Luther), but also of the human heart (Phil. 2:7), a mirror of our nakedness and vulnerability and of our poverty and imprisoned state (Matt. 25:35 ff). Jesus Christ's presence in the desert and his temptation hold a message for us: Look, through suffering and conflict the Son of God has become your human brother. For he bears the burden which oppresses you and which does more to shape your destiny than anything else in the world: Jesus suffers temptation with you. He shows you how life can be borne in its most critical and terrible hour—the hour of temptation. By himself confronting the Evil One, he shows you how to recognize this dangerous crisis in your life and where to seek salvation.

—Helmut Thielicke, *Between God and Satan* (1938)

So here's the deal and this is what you get:
The penthouse suite with world-commanding views,
The banker's bonus and the private jet,
Control and ownership of all the news,
An 'in' to that exclusive one per cent,
Who know the score, who really run the show,
With interest on every penny lent
And sweeteners for cronies in the know.
A straight arrangement between me and you,
No hell below or heaven high above,
You just admit it, and give me my due,
And wake up from this foolish dream of love ...
But Jesus laughed, 'You are not what you seem.
Love is the waking life, you are the dream.'

– Malcolm Guite, *Word in the Wilderness*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – Meets tonight, February 28, 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) for an inductive Bible study and community building time. [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 849 7690 9029 | Passcode: 903886

Women's Bible Study – Every-other-Tues. 7:30-9 pm, in person and on zoom (resumes March 30). 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, (this 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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