



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

March 7, 2021  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating Jesus, Divine Son of Man: Misunderstood and Misused**

Never was anyone more misunderstood  
than when Jesus,  
the Lord of Glory and the Prince of Life,  
was dragged into court and put to death  
as a common criminal.

The One who set the planets in orbit  
was ridiculed as an imposter;

He who knows every secret of the universe,  
in mockery was taunted to see through his blindfold.

Ah sweet Lord, come to me when I am misunderstood;

Calm me when I am misused,  
and heal the rage of my indignation.

Work in me daily the will to entrust  
my vindication to God, even as you did, for my sake.

Receive my thanks and my worship,  
O faithful Savior!

.....

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

**Gathering Hymn**

Lift High the Cross

*Unison*

(*Ref.*) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim,

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

*Fine*

1. Come, breth - ren, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,  
 2. Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,  
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4. Thy king - dom come, that earth's de - spair may cease  
 5. For thy blest cross which doth for us a - tone,

*D.C.*

our King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 the hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.  
 • as thou hast prom - ised, draw men un - to thee.  
 be - neath the shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.  
 cre - a - tion's prais - es rise be - fore thy throne.

1. Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,  
 2. Who was the guilt - y who brought this up - on thee?  
 3. Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;  
 4. For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion,  
 5. There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,

that man to judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -  
 A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord  
 • the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered: for man's a -  
 thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion: thy death of  
 I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy

rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
 Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee: I cru - ci - fied thee.  
 • tone - ment, while he noth - ing heed - eth, God in - ter - ced - eth.  
 an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
 pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

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

**Call to Worship**    I Corinthians 2:6-10:

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

**“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—**

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

**For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.**

Invocation

**Praise Hymn**            Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended

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

**Old Testament Lesson**    2 Chronicles 36:11-16; Isaiah 6:8-10

**Confession of Sin**            Jeremiah 3:22–25

Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness. Behold, we come to you, for you are the LORD our God. Truly the hills are a delusion, the orgies on the mountains. Truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.

**But from our youth the shameful thing has devoured all for which our fathers labored, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us. For we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.**

*Individual Confession*

**Absolution**                    Jeremiah 23:5-6

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and

righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

## **Thanksgiving Hymn**      O Great God

O great God of highest heaven  
Occupy my lowly heart  
Own it all and reign supreme  
Conquer every rebel power  
Let no vice or sin remain  
That resists Your holy war  
You have loved and purchased me  
Make me Yours forever more

I was blinded by my sin  
Had no ears to hear Your voice  
Did not know Your love within  
Had no taste for heaven's joys  
Then Your Spirit gave me life  
Opened up Your word to me  
Through the gospel of Your Son  
Gave me endless hope and peace

Help me now to live a life  
That's dependent on Your grace  
Keep my heart and guard my soul  
From the evils that I face  
You are worthy to be praised  
With my every thought and deed  
O great God of highest heaven  
Glorify Your Name through me

## **New Testament Lesson**    Matthew 4:1-11

### **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 —

## **Sermon Text**

Acts 27:9-44

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 31 | Curran Bishop

## **Response Hymn**

### **All I Have is Christ**

I once was lost in darkest night  
Yet thought I knew the way  
The sin that promised joy and life  
Had led me to the grave  
I had no hope that You would own  
A rebel to Your will  
And if You had not loved me first  
I would refuse You still

### **Chorus**

Hallelujah all I have is Christ  
Hallelujah Jesus is my life

But as I ran my hell-bound race  
Indifferent to the cost  
You looked upon my helpless state  
And led me to the cross  
And I beheld God's love displayed  
You suffered in my place  
You bore the wrath reserved for me  
Now all I know is grace

### **Chorus**

Now Lord I would be Yours alone  
And live so all might see  
The strength to follow Your commands  
Could never come from me  
O Father use my ransomed life  
In any way You choose  
And let my song forever be  
My only boast is You

### **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/](http://give.pcamna.org/to/1708/)

### **Confession of Faith**

Westminster Larger Catechism (1647)

**Q.** 46. What was the estate of Christ's humiliation?

**A.** The estate of Christ's humiliation was that low condition, wherein he, for our sakes, emptying himself of his glory, took upon him the form of a servant, in his conception and birth, life, death, and after his death, until his resurrection.

### **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**



Chords: Eb, Fm/Eb, Bb, Eb

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Chords: Cm, Fm/Ab, Bb, Eb

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.*

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### Coronation Hymn

When I Survey the Wonderful Cross

### Benediction

I Peter 5:8-11

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

F F C F Gm D Gm F C F 7

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Bb F C7 F C7 F C F C F Gm D

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ my God: all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down: did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

Gm F C F F C7 Dm Gm C7 F 7

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

## REFLECTION

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### **On Being Misused**

The misuse and misunderstanding of black people as intrinsically inferior, sustained and defended because of the economic advantages of race-based slavery, is one of the shameful legacies of our nation. Of course, many African-American slaves came to Christ and were able, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to feel his sympathy for them: like they were, he was an outcast; like them, he suffered insults and abuse. But through that suffering he won them an everlasting life and freedom. How glad many of them were to trust him because their life, like his, was full of so much suffering at the hands of other people. Below is a prayer by Richard Allen (1760-1831), pastor, freed slaves, and founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Use it this week, particularly if you're tempted to believe you can't survive unless people start treating you better.

– Ron Lutjens, 2009

O, my God! in all my dangers temporal and spiritual I will hope in thee who art Almighty power, and therefore able to relieve me; who art infinite goodness, and therefore ready and willing to assist me.

O precious blood of my dear Redeemer! O gaping wounds of my crucified Savior! Who can contemplate the sufferings of God incarnate, and not raise his hope, and not put his trust in him. What though my body be crumbled into dust, and that dust blown over the face of the earth, yet I undoubtedly know my Redeemer lives, and shall raise me up at the last day; whether I am comforted or left desolate; whether I enjoy peace or am afflicted with temptations, whether I am healthful or sickly, succored or abandoned by the good things of this life, I will always hope in thee, O my chiefest, infinite good.

Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; although the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields yield no meat; although the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

What though I mourn and am afflicted here, and sigh under the miseries of this world for a time, I am sure that my tears shall one day be turned into joy, and that joy none shall take from me. Whoever hopes for the great things in this world, takes pains to attain them; how can my hopes of everlasting life be well ground, if I do not strive and labor for that eternal inheritance? I will never refuse the meanest labors, while I look to receive such glorious wages; I will never repine at any temporal loss, while I expect to gain such eternal rewards. Blessed hope! be thou my chief delight in life, and then I shall be steadfast and immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, be thou my comfort and support at the hour of death, and then I shall contentedly leave this world, as a captive that is released from his imprisonment. Amen.

– *The Life, Experience and Gospel Labors of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen, 1793*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** – Meets tonight, March 7, 4-5:30pm. 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 to enjoy (socially distanced) time together.

**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](mailto: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, (resumes March 25), 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](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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