



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

March 28, 2021
6th Sunday of Lent

REFLECTION

Celebrating Jesus, Divine Son of Man: Alone in the World

Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Hosanna in the highest!”

And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying,
“Who is this?”

– Matthew 21:8-10

SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn The King of Glory Comes

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

Call to Worship from Psalm 118:19-26a

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them; and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

This is the LORD’s doing; **it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we pray, O LORD!

O LORD, we pray, give us success!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

Adagio

(*Ref.*) The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.

O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.

1. Who is the King of glo - ry? What shall we call him?
 2. In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
 3. He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion.
 4. He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en.

He is Im - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
 he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
 He took up - on him - self the sin of the na - tions.
 And he will share with us his heav - en - ly king - dom.

1. Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the
 2. Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3. Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The wing - ed
 4. Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Your last and
 5. Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, pur -
 pomp ride on to die: O Christ, your tri - umphs
 • squad - rons of the sky look down with sad and
 fierc - est strife is nigh; the Fa - ther on his
 pomp ride on to die; bow your meek head to

sue your road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 • won - d'ring eyes to see th'ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 sap - phire throne ex - pects his own a - noint - ed Son.
 mor - tal pain, then take, O God, your pow'r and reign.

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Zechariah 9:9-13

Praise Hymn Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

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

New Testament Lesson Matthew 21:1-11

Confession of Sin

O God, I cry to You. Help me to pray
And to concentrate my thoughts on You:
I cannot do this alone.
In me there is darkness, But with You there is light;
I am lonely, but You do not leave me;
I am feeble in heart, but with You there is help;
I am restless, but with You there is peace.
In me there is bitterness, but with You there is patience;
I do not understand Your ways,
But You know the way for me...
Restore me to liberty, And enable me to live now
That I may answer before You and before me.
Lord, whatever this day may bring,
Your name be praised. Amen.

Individual Confession

Absolution Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Thanksgiving Hymn Nothing but the Blood

G D G D7 G

1. What can wash a - way my sin? noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus;
 2. For my cleans - ing this I see— noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus;
 3. Noth - ing can for sin a - tone— noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus;
 4. This is all my hope and peace— noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus;
 5. Now by this I'll o - ver - come— noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus;

G D G D7 G

what can make me whole a - gain? noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.
 for my par - don this my plea— noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.
 • naught of good that I have done— noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.
 this is all my righ - teous - ness— noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.
 now by this I'll reach my home— noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.

REFRAIN

G D G D7 G D G

O pre - cious is the flow that makes me white as snow;

G D G D7 G 7

no oth - er fount I know, noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.

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 28:1-14: The Acts of the Ascended Christ, 32

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Curran Bishop

Response 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

— 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 Larger Catechism (1647)

Q. 50. Wherein consisted Christ's humiliation after his death?

A. Christ's humiliation after his death consisted in his being buried; and continuing in the state of the dead and under the power of death till the third day, which hath been otherwise expressed in these words, He descended into hell.

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.

Lord Remember Me

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.



All 1. There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom, whose leaves hold
Women 2. Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!" There on its
Men 3. Thorns not his own are tan - gled in its fo - liage; our greed has
Choir 4. See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come; hear what the
All 5. This is my end - ing, this my res - ur - rec - tion; in - to your
All 6. All heav'n is sing - ing, "Thanks to Christ whose Pas - sion of - fers in



forth the heal - ing of the na - tions: Tree of all know - ledge,
branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring; see where the ten - drills
starved it, our de - spite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its
Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry! Give me your sick - ness,
hands, Lord, I com - mit my spir - it. This have I searched for;
mer - cy heal - ing, strength and par - don. Peo - ples and na - tions,



Tree of all com - pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
of our hu - man self - hood feed on its life - blood.
grief has not de - stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
give me all your sor - row, I will give bless - ing."
now I can pos - sess it. This ground is ho - ly.
take it, take it free - ly!" A - men! My Mas - ter!

Coronation Hymn

Tree of Life

Benediction

I Thessalonians 3:11–13

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus... make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all... so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

REFLECTION

A King For Our Loneliness

Scott Peck writes that he first approached the Gospels skeptically, suspecting he would find public-relations accounts written by authors who had tied together loose ends and embellished their biographies of Jesus. The Gospels themselves quickly disabused him of that notion.

I was absolutely thunderstruck by the extraordinary reality of the man I found in the Gospels. I discovered a man who was almost continually frustrated. His frustration leaps out of virtually every page: “What do I have to say to you? How many times do I have to say it? What do I have to do to get through to you?” I also discovered a man who was frequently sad and sometimes depressed....A man who was terribly, terribly lonely, yet often desperately needed to be alone. I discovered a man so incredibly real that no one could have made Him up.

It occurred to me then that if the Gospel writers had been into PR and embellishment, as I had assumed, they would have created the kind of Jesus three quarters of Christians still seem to be trying to create...portrayed with a sweet, unending smile on His face, patting little children on the head, just strolling the earth with this unflappable, unshakable equanimity....But the Jesus of the Gospels—who some suggest is the best-kept secret of Christianity—did not have much “peace of mind,” as we ordinarily think of peace of mind in the world’s terms, and insofar as we can be His followers, perhaps we won’t either.

– Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew* (1995)

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday reciting meal - April 1st, 6pm, in-person in small groups or via zoom. We'll join together for a simple Lenten meal (we encourage you to prepare soup and bread) as we take turns reading together through a selection of passages mapping out the story of God's pursuit of Redemption. If you would be willing to host a small group gathering please let us know at info@cpcmilford.org
[Zoom Link](#) | Meeting ID: 847 1527 1739 | Passcode: 767002

Good Friday Service with Christ Pres. New Haven - April 2nd, 7pm. In-person (135 Whitney Ave., New Haven) and via zoom: This is a contemplative service intent on considering the weight of Christ's death and our part in it. With that in mind our service will include an optional I on I confessional with a pastor (both in person and on Zoom at cpcnewhaven.org/live). [More info](#).

Easter Party and Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 3rd, 2pm, Fowler Pavilion (1 Shipyard Ln., Milford). Invite friends and neighbors to join us for an egg hunt, crafts, door prizes, and treat bags to take home. Masks and social distancing will be followed; space limited to first 50 participants. Also, we need volunteers from the congregation to fill Easter eggs for the egg hunt (12 dozen total). Please let us know at info@cpcmilford.org if you can help.

Easter Sunday, April 4th

6:30am "Sunrise" service with Wildermere Beach Congregational Church (133 Broadway, Milford). We'll join with a sister congregation for a brief service of songs and Scripture readings on the law of their facility.

10:30 Easter worship service - in-person at the MAC and via zoom. Come celebrate the Resurrected Christ!

12:30 Easter fellowship lunch - outside at Bishops' (21 Green, St., Milford) if good weather, in small groups if inclement weather. We'll gather outdoors to fellowship together and celebrate the Lord's Resurrection. If you would be able to host a small group indoor gathering in case of inclement weather please let us know at info@cpcmilford.org

We will suspend our usual prayer meeting and community group gatherings during Holy Week to make room for our other meetings and celebrations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – Meets tonight, March 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 (this week, 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 (suspended until April 8th in observance of the Maundy Thursday Dinner). 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, April 8), 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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