



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
MILFORD

May 9, 2021  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## REFLECTION

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### **Celebrating the Immortal Jesus as the Resurrection Community of Power & Discipline**

In Christ's death, believers died;  
In his resurrection, they too live.  
So well does he love us, So deeply does he care,  
So closely does he take us to himself  
That he made his death under wrath, ours;  
His new life in power, our life in power.

What he is, he gives; What he won, he shares,  
That we might be conformed to his image.

Thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory  
Over all that would enslave us,  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is the first day of the week;  
It is the day of resurrection—  
Of our Lord and, in due time, of his people.  
Alleluia!

.....

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + **Easter** + Pentecost

#### **Gathering Hymn**    I Will Call Upon The Lord

I will call upon the Lord (I will call upon the Lord)  
Who is worthy to be praised (Who is worthy to be praised)  
So shall I be saved from my enemies (So shall I be saved from my enemies)  
I will call upon the Lord

The Lord liveth  
And blessed be my Rock  
Let the God of my salvation be exalted  
(Repeat)

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

**Call to Worship**    Philippians 3:8–11

I count everything as loss:

**because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish,

**in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him,**

not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

**that I may know him and the power of his resurrection,**

and may share his sufferings, **becoming like him in his death,**

that by any means possible: **I may attain the resurrection from the dead.**

Invocation

**Scripture Lesson**    Proverbs 22:13, Hebrews 12:3–11

**Praise Hymn**        Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the Word of the Lord  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant Moses  
Righteousness being restored  
And though these are days  
Of great trials  
Of famine and darkness and sword  
Still we are the voice  
In the desert crying  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

## **Chorus**

Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds  
Shining like the sun  
At the trumpet call  
So lift your voice  
It's the year of Jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel  
The dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant David  
Rebuilding a temple of praise  
And these are the days of the harvest  
The fields are as white in the world  
And we are the laborers  
In Your vineyard  
Declaring the Word of the Lord

## **Chorus**

There is no God like Jehovah (repeat 6x)

## **Chorus**

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

## **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**                      Proverbs 3:11–12

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD  
reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

**Thanksgiving Hymn**              How Firm a Foundation

**Epistle Lesson**                  Philippians 3:1–11

### **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**                  Proverbs 31:10-31

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

G C G D G C

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your  
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis-mayed; for I am your  
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go, the riv - ers of  
 4. "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie, my grace, all - suf -

G D<sup>7</sup> G F D/F# Em Am<sup>7</sup> C

faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What more can he say than to  
 God, and will still give you aid; I'll strength - en you, help you, and  
 sor - row shall not o - ver - flow; for I will be with you, your  
 fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply; the flame shall not hurt you; I

G D G C G D<sup>7</sup> G 7

you he has said, to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 cause you to stand, up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 trou - bles to bless, and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.  
 on - ly de - sign your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.

5. "E'en down to old age all my people shall prove my sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love; and when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.
6. "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

**Sermon**                      Flourishing: a Study in Proverbs; Burnout

**Response Hymn**              Establish the Works of Our Hands

If You don't build it we labor in vain  
Without Your Spirit we stand with no strength  
I know my life is passing away  
But the works of Your hands are what will remain

**Chorus**

Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us  
O Lord establish the work of our hands (repeat)

Teach us to number the length of our days  
Pour out Your power we'll pour out Your praise  
Teach us to run to finish the race  
For only what's done in love will remain

**Chorus**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (repeat)

— 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 Confession of Faith (1647)

*Chapter 13: Of Sanctification*

Those who are effectually called and regenerated have a new heart and a new spirit created in them. They are additionally sanctified... by the power of Christ's death and resurrection and by his word and Spirit dwelling in them. The power of sin ruling over the whole body is destroyed, and the desires of the old self are more and more weakened and killed. At the same time the ability to practice true holiness, without

which no one will see the Lord, is brought to life and strengthened by all the saving graces.

This sanctification works in the whole person, but not completely or perfectly in this life. The old sinful nature retains some of its control in body, mind, and spirit. And so a continual and irreconcilable war goes on in every believer. The old nature tries to get its way in opposition to the Spirit, and the Spirit fights to assert its authority over the flesh.

Although the old nature temporarily wins battles in this warfare, the continual strengthening of the sanctifying Spirit of Christ enables the regenerate nature in each believer to overcome. And so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

### **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.*

### **The Gospel Song**

Holy God in love became, Perfect Man to bear my blame  
On the cross He took my sin, By His death I live again

### **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**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

**Benediction**

I Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of  
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the  
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great;  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, Lord Sa - ba - oth his name,  
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,  
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:

## REFLECTION

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### **I Am Weak But He Is Strong (In Me)**

Since we are complete in our Lord Jesus, it will not do to try and add to that finished work. It is now a matter of walking by faith and receiving, appropriating, from the ever-abundant Source within. Walker Marshall is concise here: “Christ’s resurrection was our resurrection to a life of holiness, as Adam’s fall was our fall into spiritual death. And we are not ourselves the first makers and formers of our new holy nature, any more than of our original corruption, but both are formed ready for us to partake of them. And by union with Christ, we partake of that spiritual life that He took possession of for us at His resurrection, and thereby we are enabled to bring forth the fruits of it; as the Scripture showeth by the similitude of a marriage union. Romans 7:4: So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.”

Our part is not production, but reception of our life in Christ. This entails Bible-based fact finding; explicit faith in Him and His purpose for us in Christ; and patient trust while He takes us through the necessary processing involved. No believer ever fell into maturity, even though he is complete in Christ. Spiritual growth necessitates heart-hunger for the Lord Jesus; determination, based upon assurance, to have that which is ours in Him, plus meditation and thought. We will never come into the knowledge of our spiritual possessions through a superficial understanding of the Word. How can we ever expect to have intimate fellowship with One we know little of?

—Miles Stanford in *The Green Letters* (1964)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Community Group** – Meets tonight, May 9, 5:30-7pm at the Bishops' (21 Green St., Milford, CT 06460) for a picnic, inductive Bible study and community building time.

**Women's Bible Study** – Every-other-Tues. 7:30-9 pm, in person and on zoom (on break between book studies). Please RSVP to [cpcmilford@gmail.com](mailto:cpcmilford@gmail.com). [Link](#) to the study guide (\$2.50). [Zoom Link](#) | Meeting ID: 828 6871 9345 | Passcode: 246223

**Thursday Night Prayer Meeting** – 7-7:50pm. Regular prayer for each other, our community, our world and the redemptive work of God is essential to our mission. Please join us as we follow a short prayer and scripture liturgy and pray for each other. [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 | Passcode: 665297

**Helping Without Hurting** – May 13, 8-9pm (following prayer meeting). We'll meet for a last session to apply what we've learned to our congregational benevolence/mercy ministry policies. [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 856 4475 2681 | Passcode: 665297 (same as prayer meeting)

**Congregational Meeting** – Sunday, May 16. We will meet for 15-20 minutes following worship to discuss the 2021-22 budget and ministry plan, as well as the summer schedule.

### Contact us

203.812.9928 | [cpcmilford@gmail.com](mailto:cpcmilford@gmail.com) | [facebook.com/CPCMilford](https://facebook.com/CPCMilford) | [cpcmilford.org](http://cpcmilford.org)

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