



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

May 16, 2021
Ascension Sunday

REFLECTION

Celebrating the Immortal Jesus as the Ascended Lord of All Authority & Power

Blessing them, He ascended into heaven.

Gone, but not gone.

Ascended, but still with us.

Alive among us

Among us

Us!

No longer sad at his leaving,
we wait in joy and wonder
for the Spirit.

Blessed,

we wait to do his bidding,
to go out to all the world
to tell the Good News
that God loves us so much
He chose to live among us.

Lo, He is with us always
even unto the end of the world...

Ascended Lord, ever Emmanuel!

—Ann Weems, 1991

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

1. Hail the day that sees him rise Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. There for him high tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. See, he lifts his hands a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Lord, be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!

to his throne a - bove the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
 lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates; Al - le - lu - ia!
 See, he shows the prints of love! Al - le - lu - ia!
 raise our hearts to reach thy height; Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners giv'n, Al - le - lu - ia!
 he hath con - quered death and sin, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow Al - le - lu - ia!
 there thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

en - ters now the high - est heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!
 bless - ings on his church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!
 find our heav'n of heav'ns in thee! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

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

Call to Worship

Luke 24:50–53

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Thanks Be To God, Alleluia!

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 68:16–19

Praise 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.

Chorus

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

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin.
Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes,
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law.
Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good,
love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time;

hark! how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own:
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:

a - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 his reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 all hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me:

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flow'rs of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Individual Confession

Absolution Jeremiah 31:31–34

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Thanksgiving Hymn

New Testament Lesson Acts 1:1-11

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 Proverbs 8:1-21

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Flourishing: a Study in Proverbs; Rigidity, Teachability & Grace

Response 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

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

— 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 The Nicene Creed (AD 325)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.

His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son,

and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,

and to life in the world to come. Amen.

*the universal Christian Church in all times and places

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.

Sinclair Alleluia

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

See the Lord Ascends in Triumph

See, the Lord ascends in triumph: Conqu'ring King in royal state,
Riding on the clouds, His chariot, To His heav'nly palace gate.
Hark! The choirs of angel voices Joyful alleluias sing,
And the portals high are lifted To receive their heav'nly King.

Who is this that comes in glory, With the trump of jubilee?
Lord of battles, God of armies, He has gained the victory.
He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose.
He has vanquished sin and Satan; He by death has crushed His foes.

While He lifts His hands in blessing, He is parted from His friends;
While their eager eyes behold Him, He upon the clouds ascends.
He who walked with God and pleased Him, Preaching truth and doom to come,
He, our Enoch, is translated, To His everlasting home.

Now our heav'nly Aaron enters, With His blood within the veil;
Joshua now is come to Canaan, And the kings before Him quail.
Now He plants the tribes of Israel, In their promised resting place:
Now our great Elijah offers, Double portion of His grace.

He has raised our human nature, On the clouds to God's right hand;
There we sit in heav'nly places, There with Him in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne.
By our mighty Lord's ascension We by faith behold our own.

Benediction from Philippians 2:9–11, 4:23

God has highly exalted Jesus and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

REFLECTION

Ascension and Church

The Word was made flesh, and dwelled among us; to that flesh is joined the church, and there is made the total Christ, head and body.

– Augustine of Hippo, *On the Epistle of John*

The spirit operates by creating out of the word a body that St. Paul calls the Body of Christ... As such this body becomes matched to Christ vis-à-vis history and as the instrument of his saving purpose in the Gospel. It is the sphere where through the presence of the Spirit the salvation-events of the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension are operative here and now in history, the sphere wherever within the old creation the new creation has broken in with power.

– Thomas Torrance, *Royal Priesthood*,

The church is not the source of witness, it is the locus of witness.... The presence of a new reality, the presence in the shared life of the church of the spirit...

– Lesslie Newbigin, *The Household of God*

Just as we insist that a Church which has ceased to be a mission has lost the essential character of a Church, so must we also say that a mission which is not at the same time truly a Church is not a true expression of the divine apostolate. An unchurchly mission is as much a monstrosity as an unmissionary church.

– Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group – Meets tonight, May 16, 5:30-7pm at the Foremans' (14 Central Avenue, Milford, CT 06460) for a picnic and 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. [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

Summer VBS and BBQ with Christ Pres in the Hill – Save the date to participate with our sister congregation in their outreach to their neighborhood on Saturday, July 24 (for VBS) and Wednesday, August 4 (for BBQ).

Contact us

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