



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
MILFORD

December 5, 2021
2nd Sunday of Advent

REFLECTION

Celebrating Messiah Jesus: Emmanuel, God with Us

For ages women hoped and prayed Messiah
would be born to a daughter in Israel;
Century after century the Gentile peoples of the world
sat in darkness, waiting for the light of Truth;
Generation upon generation prayed and prayed that
Emmanu-el, God With Us,
would come and ransom captive Israel.

But, according to his patience, when time had ripened,
God acted. The Son came.

We cry now, “Come to us Jesus, expected so long;
come and release us from our fears and sins;
release us from our sadness; let us find our rest in you,
that we might live in the joy of God
until you come again, as Lion of Judah.”

.....

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent + Christmas + Epiphany + Lent + Easter + Pentecost

Gathering Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel

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

Call to Worship

Isaiah 63:8-9 (responsive):

For he said, **“Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely.”**

And he became their Savior.

In all their affliction he was afflicted,

and the angel of his presence saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
 3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
 4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
 • tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
 draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

REFRAIN
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 • and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Invocation

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 7:10-14, 40:1-8

Praise Hymn Immanuel

From the squalor of a borrowed stable
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Savior of the human race
But the skies were filled, with the praise of heav'n
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the gift of God come down to man; At the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the friend of sinners
Humble servant in the Father's hands
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit
Filled with mercy for the broken man
Yes He walked my road, and He felt my pain
Joys and sorrows that I know so well
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again; I will follow my Immanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal
He was lifted on a cruel cross
He was punished for a world's transgressions
He was suffering to save the lost
He fights for breath, He fights for me
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell
And with a shout our souls are free; Death defeated by Immanuel

Now He's standing in the place of honor
Crowned with glory on the highest throne
Interceding for His own beloved
'Til His Father calls to bring them home
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
But the bride will run to her Lover's arms; Giving glory to Immanuel

Confession of Sin

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Yet we have profaned your name by our sin.

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Yet we have sought to bring about our own kingdom and our own will.

Give us this day our daily bread. **Yet we have sought sustenance outside of Christ.**

Forgive us our sin in the same way in which we forgive those who have sinned against us.

Yet we have not forgiven our wrongdoers.

And lead us not into temptation, **for we have gone there willingly.**

Holy God, have mercy on us. **Make us holy as you are holy.**

Individual Confession

Absolution

Hebrews 10:19–23

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Thanksgiving Hymn

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

New Testament Lesson Matthew 1:18–23

Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

Sanctus

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord, God of Hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory!

Hosana in the Highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosana in the Highest.

1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be -
 2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be -
 3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we

cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
 cam - est man; stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
 wor - ship thee. Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,

sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -
 heav'n - ward by thine e - ter - nal plan. Thou who art God be -
 make us what thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love be -

yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
 yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
 yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

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

Sermon Text Jeremiah 23:5-17

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

Sermon The Messiah in Jeremiah | Pastor Curran Bishop

Response Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem

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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/

O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide

O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride.
Unbar the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.

Confession of Faith Westminster Confession of Faith (1647) Chapter 8, § 2

The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon Him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by:
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Communion in Christ Jesus

All Christians are invited to receive Christ's presence of bread and wine. When directed please take your bulletin, stand and form a circle around the worship space. Whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle. If you are not able to stand, please move your chair into the circle. We serve wine in the outer rings of the tray in the Lord's Supper, believing it to be the Biblical element used. We provide grape juice in the inner rings for those who, out of conscience or for health, do not drink wine.

Communion Hymn As With Men of Old (Verses 1-3)

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.

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

Coronation Hymn As With Men of Old (Verses 4-5)

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.

1. As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2. As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly cra-dle-bed,
 3. As they of-fered gifts most rare at that cra-dle rude and bare;
 4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day* keep us in the nar-row way;
 5. In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre-at-ed light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore him whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
 • so may we with ho-ly joy, pure, and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra-cious God, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 • all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.
 there for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King.

REFLECTION

*O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

And Cheer Us By Thy Drawing Nigh

Joy and sadness are as close to each other as the splendid colored leaves of a New England fall to the soberness of barren trees. When you touch the hand of a returning friend, you already know that he will have to leave you again. When you are moved by the quiet vastness of a sun-colored ocean, you miss the friend who cannot see the same. Joy and sadness are born at the same time, both arising from such deep places in your heart that you can't find words to capture your complex emotions.

But this intimate experience in which every bit of life is touched by a bit of death can point us beyond the limits of our existence. It can do so by making us look forward in expectation to the day when our hearts will be filled with perfect joy, a joy that no one shall take away from us.

Christians celebrate the human birth of the infant Jesus knowing full well that he grew to be a man, gave himself up to death for our sake and was raised from the dead to new life. The mystery of death and life is part of the celebration of Christmas, a celebration that proclaims the victory of life over death. We have not been promised a life free from sorrow, but one in which joy will have the last word.

—Henri Nouwen

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Community Group Caroling at Costens'	12/5, 6pm
Garlands & Greenery Galore! (Women's gathering)	12/10, 7pm
Caroling for the Hill Store	12/11, 10:15am
'Twas the Night with CPC Fairfield	12/12, 4pm
Bishop's Christmas Party	12/17, 5pm
Community Group Caroling	12/19, 6pm
Christmas Eve Service	12/24, 6pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Group | Meeting tonight, Dec. 5, at the Costens' for a caroling party to their neighborhood. We'll gather briefly back at their house after to warm up with a hot drink and some treats (if a few of us would contribute some!).

Men's Breakfast | Wednesdays at 7am, Pop's Restaurant (134 Old Gate Ln.). We meet with no agenda but to create space for guys to form a strong community where important questions can be discussed and answered. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

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: 899 5618 6470 | Passcode: 355978

Sunday Worship | We'll be meeting at the Fowler Building (parking at I Shipyard Ln.) for December 12th & 19th at 11am; we'll be back at the MAC (40 Railroad Ave. S.) for the 26th at 10:30

Men's & Women's Bible Studies | Men's meets Dec. 18th, 9-10:30am. Women's meets in January. RSVP for either study to info@cpcmilford.org.

Men's & Women's Monthly Fellowship | Generally 3rd Fridays, rotating months. Women are meeting Friday, Dec. 10th. RSVP to info@cpcmilford.org.

Contact us

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