



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

October 11, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Forgiveness flounders because I exclude the enemy from the community of humans even as I exclude myself from the community of sinners.”

—MIROSLAV VOLF

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, give your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:1-14

PSALM: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

In Scripture, the Call to  
Worship comes from  
God. We need to be  
called because it is not  
our natural response to  
come to God. God takes  
the initiative, moves  
towards us with grace,  
and invites us to  
worship him.

## WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 130

**LEADER** Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!  
O LORD, hear my voice!

**PEOPLE** Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

**LEADER** If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
O LORD, who could stand?

**PEOPLE** But with you there is forgiveness,  
that you may be feared.

**LEADER** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

**PEOPLE** My soul waits for the LORD  
more than watchmen for the morning.

## HYMN

### Cornerstone

Edward Mote · Eric Liljero · Jonas Myrin · Reuben Morgan

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone.  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.  
Through the storm, He is Lord,  
Lord of all.*

When Darkness seems to hide His face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
My anchor holds within the veil. *Chorus*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found!  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne! *Chorus*

Aware of God's holiness  
and our sinfulness, the  
Prayer of Confession  
invites us to honestly  
confess our sins. We  
are free to confess even  
our most grievous faults  
because no matter  
how deep our sin may  
be, God's grace in  
Jesus Christ is deeper  
still. Confession both  
acknowledges our need  
for grace and celebrates  
its abundant provision  
in Christ.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

## SILENT CONFESSION

The Words of Assurance should be received with gratitude and joy because these words of Scripture assure us that God has promised to forgive and restore those who confess their sins through the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### Titus 3:4-6

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**LEADER** Hear and receive the good news of the gospel:  
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**ALL** Thanks be to God!

## HYMN

### Divine Exchange

Charity Gayle

On the cross hung my pain  
And the guilt and the shame.  
Jesus bore my suffering  
To the grave to make me free.

Oh the blood that was shed,  
It now flows to cover sin.  
It washes clean and purifies  
In its healing crimson tide.

*Jesus, He took my place in divine exchange;  
Hallelujah! Grace is mine.  
Now I will live by faith for the One who saves.  
He gave all to give me life.*

His Spirit is my present help;  
I'd be lost all by myself.  
He resurrects; He sanctifies.  
He take His power and makes it mine. *Chorus*

I lay down all lesser things for greater gain;  
He is alive inside of me. *Chorus*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We regularly pray for needs in our congregation, our neighborhood and city, and the world. Please let the prayer ministry know of your prayer requests by visiting [centralchurchnyc.org/prayerrequest](http://centralchurchnyc.org/prayerrequest).*

## OFFERING

*Please text **centralchurchnyc** to 77977 or visit our website in order to give electronically.*

## OFFERTORY

### How Can I Keep From Singing

Robert Lowry

My life flows on in endless song;  
Above earth's lamentation  
I hear the sweet though far off hymn  
That hails a new creation:  
Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear the music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul—  
How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die?  
The Lord my Savior liveth;  
What though the darkness gather round!  
Songs in the night He giveth:  
No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that refuge clinging;  
Since Christ is Lord of Heav'n and earth,  
How can I keep from singing?

I lift mine eyes; the cloud grows thin;  
I see the blue above it;  
And day by day this pathway smooths  
Since first I learned to love it:  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
A fountain ever springing:  
All things are mine since I am His—  
How can I keep from singing?

## THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth LM

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Word of God is the primary means by which God speaks to us and the ultimate authority for what we believe and how we live. All Scripture passages are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Luke 6:35-45

<sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

<sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

<sup>39</sup>He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? <sup>40</sup>A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. <sup>41</sup>Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>42</sup>How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye.

<sup>43</sup>“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, <sup>44</sup>for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. <sup>45</sup>The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

LEADER     The word of the Lord.

ALL            Thanks be to God!



The Spirit makes the reading and preaching of God's Word a powerful means of challenging, comforting, and strengthening God's people and awakening people to new faith.

## SERMON

### *Us AND Them* | What's That in Your Eye?

Rev. Ed Sirya

From the earliest days of the church a prayer of Thanksgiving preceded Holy Communion. The Thanksgiving includes the "Sursum Corda" which means "Lift up your hearts" or literally, "Hearts lifted," in Latin. The Thanksgiving bids us to acknowledge our absolute dependence on the God who desires to commune with us.

## THE THANKSGIVING

**LEADER** Lift up your hearts.

**PEOPLE** We lift them up to the Lord.

**LEADER** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**PEOPLE** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**LEADER** It is indeed right, our duty and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is a covenant renewal meal, instituted by Jesus Christ the night before his crucifixion. When we partake of the bread and the cup by faith, we remember Jesus' sacrificial death on our behalf in the past, we anticipate the day when Jesus will return and make all things new in the future, and the Spirit lifts us up to enjoy real communion with Jesus in the present.

We take it as a sign of a healthy congregation to have regular attenders who love our community but who do not profess faith in Christ and so refrain from receiving the elements. If you are a Christian and have not yet been baptized, please talk with our pastor. We would be honored to baptize you.

For health reasons, an individually packaged wafer and cup can be found in the pew for those who wish to participate in the Lord's Supper. Once consumed, please place empty cups in the back of the pew.

Children are welcome to partake of communion. To receive the Lord's Supper, a child must have been baptized and been formally received as a communing member by the Session of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong.

*Holy Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. We invite all to partake of this sacrament who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to use the prayers printed below and spend this time in reflection or prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church.*

### **Prayer for Those Searching for Truth**

Lord Jesus Christ, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

### **Prayer of Belief**

Lord Jesus Christ, I acknowledge that you are so holy and I am so sinful that you had to die for me. Yet you are so merciful and I am so loved that you were willing to die for me. I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what I have done and by what I have failed to do. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer of Commitment**

Lord Jesus, I know that if I do not love you with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength, I shall love something else with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Grant that by loving you first I may be liberated from all lesser loves and loyalties and have you as my first love, my chief good, and my final joy. Amen.

We sing the prayer that  
Jesus taught us to pray  
to our Heavenly Father.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever,  
Amen.

We begin our worship  
with God's gracious  
invitation, and we  
conclude with God's  
blessing, his good word.

It is appropriate to  
look up and open our  
palms as we receive  
the Benediction to  
symbolize how Jesus  
Christ lifts our heads  
and to demonstrate our  
eagerness to receive  
God's blessing.

## BENEDICTION

God never draws us  
into relationship with  
himself without also  
sending us out into  
the world to be his  
representatives and  
ambassadors.

## DISMISSAL

LEADER     Let us go forth to serve the world as those who  
love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ALL            **Thanks be to God!**