



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Lord, you are the light of the minds who know you, the life of the souls who love you, and the strength of the souls who serve you. Help us to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom.”

— AUGUSTINE

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

We beseech you, almighty God, look on the heartfelt desires of your servants, and stretch forth the right hand of your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

PSALM: Psalm 19

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## WELCOME AND CALL TO 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.*

### Psalm 118

LEADER Out of my distress I called on the LORD;

**PEOPLE The LORD answered me and set me free.**

LEADER The LORD is on my side;

**PEOPLE I will not fear. What can man do to me?**

LEADER It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in mortals.

**PEOPLE It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.**

LEADER The LORD is my strength and my song;

**PEOPLE He has become my salvation.**

## HYMN

### O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Aaron Sensman · Arr. Dr. Seth Ward

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My Great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

My Gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad,  
The honors of Thy name.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin,  
He sets the pris'ner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations, own  
Your God, ye fallen race;  
Look, and be saved through faith alone,  
Be justified by grace.

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My Great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*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.*

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

## SILENT CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*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.*

### John 8:32, 36

If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

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

**ALL** **Thanks be to God!**

## HYMN

### Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Elisha A. Hoffman · Anthony J. Showalter · Arr. Nolan Williams, Jr.

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Chorus*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *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](http://centralchurchnyc.org) to 77977 or visit our website in order to give electronically.*

## OFFERTORY

### Holy Water

We the Kingdom

God, I'm on my knees again  
God, I'm begging please again  
I need you  
Oh, I need you

Walking down these desert roads  
Water for my thirsty soul  
I need you  
Oh, I need you

*Your forgiveness  
Is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips  
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears  
Like Holy water on my skin*

Dead man walking, slave to sin  
I wanna know about being born again  
I need you  
Oh, God, I need you

So, take me to the riverside  
Take me under, baptize  
I need you  
Oh, God I need you *Chorus*

I don't wanna abuse your grace  
God, I need it every day  
It's the only thing that ever really makes me wanna change *Chorus*

## 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.

## SCRIPTURE READING

*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.*

### 1 Peter 2:13-17

<sup>13</sup>Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup>or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup>For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup>Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup>Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

## SERMON

*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.*

### **A Better Resistance | No One Tells Me What To Do**

Rev. Jason Harris

## THE THANKSGIVING

*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.*

**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 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. 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.*

*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 pastors. We would be honored to baptize you.*

*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.*

### **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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

## HYMN

### King Of My Heart

John Mark McMillan · Sarah McMillan

Let the King of my heart  
Be the mountain where I run,  
The fountain I drink from;  
Oh, He is my song.

Let the King of my heart  
Be the shadow where I hide,  
The ransom for my life;  
Oh, He is my song.

*You are good,  
You are good, oh oh,  
You are good,  
You are good, oh oh.*

Let the King of my heart  
Be the wind inside my sails,  
The anchor in the waves;  
Oh, He is my song.

Let the King of my heart  
Be the fire inside my veins,  
The echo of my days;  
Oh he is my song. *Chorus*

## BENEDICTION

*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.*

## DISMISSAL

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

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

ALL        **Thanks be to God!**