



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“God’s calling of Christians appears in a marvellous contrariness. Opposition and hatred cannot thwart the life of blessing. Even when Christians are cursed, they bless. This is how Christians ‘get even.’ They pay back evil with good, insults with blessing. This, of course, was the teaching of Jesus, as well as his example. ‘But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.’”

— EDMUND CLOWNEY, THE MESSAGE OF 1 PETER

COLLECT OF THE DAY

We beseech you, almighty God, to look mercifully upon your people: that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

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 98

LEADER Oh sing to the LORD a new song
for he has done marvelous things!

PEOPLE **The LORD has made known his salvation.
He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

LEADER He has remembered his steadfast love
and his faithfulness to the house of Israel.

PEOPLE **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

LEADER Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

PEOPLE **Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

HYMN

O Worship the King

Robert Grant · William Gardiner

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love.
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, and sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light and canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Love lifted me, Love lifted me.
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.
Love lifted me, Love lifted me.
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.

O Measureless Might, Ineffable Love,
While angels delight to worship above.
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

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.

O Lord, no day of our lives passes that does not prove us guilty in your sight. Our best services are filthy rags. All things in us call for our rejection. However, all things in Christ plead our acceptance. Grant us to hear your voice assuring us that by your wounds we are healed, that you were bruised for our iniquities, that you became sin for us that we might become righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness we may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commandments, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Matt Redman

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His Holy Name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your Holy Name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes. *Chorus*

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger,
Your Name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten-thousand reasons for my heart to find. *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.*

OFFERING

Please text [centralchurchnyc](https://www.centralchurchnyc.org) to 77977 or visit our website in order to give electronically.

OFFERTORY

All My Hope

David Crowder · Ed Cash

I've been held by the Savior,
I've felt fire from above,
I've been down to the river;
I ain't the same, a prodigal returned

*All my hope is in Jesus.
Thank God that yesterday's gone!
All my sins are forgiven;
And I've been washed by the blood.*

I'm no stranger to prison—
I've worn shackles and chains—
But I've been freed and forgiven!
And I'm not going back; I'll never be the same.
That's why I sing, *Chorus*

There's a kind of thing that just breaks me,
Breaks me down to my knees.
God, I've been broken more than a time or two,
Then He picked me up and showed me
What it means to be free.
Come on and sing, *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 2:19-24; 3:8-12

¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

⁸Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰For

“Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;
¹¹let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.
¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

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 | Bless Those Who Bruise You

Rev. Ed Sirya

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

Jesus Paid It All

Alex Nifong · Dan Galbraith

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone. *Chorus*

O Praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead.
O Praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead.

And when before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save!"
My lips shall still repeat. *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!**