



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

April 2, 2021

Holy Week · Good Friday

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The personal message of Good Friday, expressed in so many hymns and prayers which draw on the tradition of the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53) and its New Testament outworking, comes down to this: ‘See all your sins on Jesus laid’; ‘The Son of God loved me and gave himself for me’; or, in the words which Jesus spoke at the Supper but which God spoke on Good Friday itself: ‘This is my body, given for you.’ When we apply this as individuals to today’s and tomorrow’s sins, the result is not that we are given license to sin because it’s all been dealt with anyway but rather that we are summoned by the most powerful love in the world to live by the pattern of death and resurrection, repentance and forgiveness, in daily Christian living, in sure hope of eventual victory.”

— N. T. WRIGHT

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty Father, look graciously upon this your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

PSALM: Psalm 71:1-14

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

GOSPEL: John 12:20-36

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### **What Wondrous Love is This**

American Folk Hymn · William Walker

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and through eternity I'll sing on.

## 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.*

### Hebrews 4:14-16

LEADER Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,

PEOPLE **Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.**

LEADER For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with us in our weaknesses,

PEOPLE **But one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

LEADER Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

PEOPLE **That we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

## HYMN

### **O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

Bernard of Clairvaux · Tr. Paul Gerhardt · Arr. J.S. Bach

O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns, Thine only crown;  
O sacred Head, what glory,  
What bliss 'til now was Thine,  
Yet though despised and gory,  
I joy to call Thee mine.

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered,  
Was all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression,  
But Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor,  
Vouchsafe me to Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow  
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow,  
Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever,  
And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
Outlive my love to Thee.

## RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 52:13-53:6

LEADER See, my servant will act wisely;  
He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

**ALL Just as there were many who were appalled at him—  
His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any  
man, and his form marred beyond human likeness—**

LEADER So will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut  
their mouths because of him.

**ALL For what they were not told, they will see, and what  
they have not heard, they will understand.**

LEADER Who has believed our message?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

**ALL He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
And like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
Nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.**

LEADER He was despised and rejected by men,  
A man of sorrows and familiar with suffering.  
Like one from whom men hide their faces,  
He was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**ALL Surely he took up our infirmities,  
And carried our sorrows,  
Yet we considered him stricken by God,  
Smitten by him, and afflicted.**

LEADER But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

**ALL We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has  
turned to his own way;  
And the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

## 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.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, lamenting our sins, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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.*

### 1 Peter 2:24

He 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.

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

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

## HYMN

### The Power of the Cross

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend · Arr. Dan Galbraith

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.

*This, the pow'r 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.  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry 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 vict'ry cry. *Chorus*

Oh, to see my name written in Your wounds,  
For through Your suffering, I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the pow'r of the cross.  
Son of God slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

## 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.*

## 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 takes His power and makes it mine. *Chorus*

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

### Romans 5:6-11

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—<sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## 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.*

### **Good Friday | Why Forgiveness Isn't Enough**

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

### **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

Isaac Watts

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

## **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.*

## **POSTLUDE**

### **Were You There?**

Central Church Chamber Ensemble

## **DISMISSAL IN SILENCE**