



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

April 18, 2021

Second Sunday after Easter

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“There were serious social costs involved in becoming a Christian in the first three centuries, costs that were unique to early Christianity. These social costs and consequences fell mainly on the individuals who became Christians. So, why did individuals (and across the first three centuries it appears that there were a good many of them) become Christians, despite these costs?”

— LARRY HURTADO

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of a godly life: Give us grace that we may always thankfully receive the inestimable benefit of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavor to follow in the blessed steps of his most holy life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forevermore. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

PSALM: Psalm 4

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Take My Life and Let It Be

Frances Havergal · Chris Tomlin · Louis Giglio

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use ev'ry power as You choose.

Here am I, all of me. Take my life, it's all for Thee.

Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Your feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be ever, only all for Thee. *Chorus*

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 96

LEADER Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

PEOPLE Let the field exult, and everything in it!

LEADER Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the LORD, for he comes,

PEOPLE For he comes to judge the earth.

LEADER He will judge the world in righteousness,

PEOPLE And the peoples in his faithfulness.

HYMN

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Charles Wesley · John Darwall

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

His kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and Heav'n;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge shall come,
And take His servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

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 God, in raising Jesus from the grave you have given us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from sin and death and to renew our whole creation. We confess that we still fall into doubt and fear. We continue to cling to selfish ways and doubt your power to make all things new. Forgive our lack of faith. Have mercy on our weakness. Raise us from the death of sin that we may live with Christ in the joy of his resurrection, now and forever. 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.

Romans 6:8-11

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

King of Kings

Geoff Bullock

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from heaven you came running
There was mercy in your eyes.
To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word.
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt.

Praise the Father.

Praise the Son.

Praise the Spirit Three in One.

God of glory, Majesty

Praise forever to the King of Kings.

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost.
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross.
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake you died. *Chorus*

And the morning that you rose
All of heaven held its breath.
Till that stone was moved for good
For the lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint.
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free.
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me. *Chorus*

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to fill out this year's congregational survey at centralchurchnyc.org/survey.

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM 10:00 AM

Ellis Christian Bach
Son of Elijah and Jihye Bach

Baptismal Vows

- 1 Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2 Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for Ellis's salvation, as you do for your own?
- 3 Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the truths of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring Ellis up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

- 1 Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Elijah and Jihye in the Christian nurture of their child?

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Battle Belongs

Phil Wickham

When all I see is the battle,
You see my victory.
When all I see is the mountain,
You see a mountain moved.
And as I walk through the shadow,
Your love surrounds me.
There's nothing to fear now,
For I am safe with You.

*So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high.
Oh God, the battle belongs to You,
And every fear I lay at Your feet.
I'll sing through the night:
Oh God, the battle belongs to You.*

And if You are for me
Who can be against me?
For, Jesus, there's nothing
Impossible for You.
When all I see are the ashes,
You see the beauty.
When all I see is a cross,
God, You see the empty tomb. *Chorus*

Almighty Fortress, You go before us.
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God.
You shine in the shadow;
You win every battle.
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God. *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 4:1-6

¹Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

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 | Is It Worth It?

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

O Praise the Name

Dean Usher · Marty Sampson · Benjamin Hastings

I cast my mind to Calvary,
Where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet.
My Savior on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears,
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.
The entrance sealed by heavy stone,
Messiah still and all alone.

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God!
O praise His Name forever more!
For endless days we will sing Your praise,
O Lord, O Lord our God!*

Then on the third at break of dawn,
The Son of Heaven rose again.
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King! *Chorus*

He shall return in robes of white,
The Blazing Son shall pierce the night.
And I will rise among the saints,
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face. *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!**

POSTLUDE

O Praise the Name

Central Church Chamber Ensemble