



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

April 25, 2021

Third Sunday after Easter

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“By attractional, we mean that the traditional church plants itself within a particular community, neighborhood, or locale and expects that people will come to it to meet God and find fellowship with others...By anticipating that if they get their internal features right, people will flock to the services, the church betrays its belief in attractionalism. It’s like the Kevin Costner character in the film *Field of Dreams* being told by a disembodied voice, ‘If you build it, they will come’...How much of the traditional church’s energy goes into adjusting their programs and their public meetings to cater to an unseen constituency? If we get our seating, our parking, our children’s program, our preaching, our music right, they will come. This assumes that we have a place in our society and that people don’t join our churches because, though they want to be Christians, they’re unhappy with the product.”

— MICHAEL FROST AND ALAN HIRSCH

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth so that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ’s service that they may renounce those things that are contrary to their profession and follow all such things as are agreeable to it; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

PSALM: Psalm 23

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

GOSPEL: Luke 10:11-18

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel J. Stone · Brian Moss

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one over all the earth;
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

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 103

LEADER Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,

PEOPLE Bless his holy name!

LEADER Bless the LORD, O my soul,

PEOPLE And forget not all his benefits,

LEADER Who forgives all your iniquity,

PEOPLE Who heals all your diseases,

LEADER Who redeems your life from the pit,

PEOPLE Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Isaac Watts · John Hatton

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
'Til moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen!

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 most merciful Father, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us; 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.

1 John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

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

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

Come As You Are

Ben Glover · Matt Maher · David Crowder

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been.
Come broken-hearted, let rescue begin.
Come find your mercy, oh sinner, come kneel:
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

*So, lay down your burdens, lay down your shame,
All who are broken, lift up your face.
Wanderer, come home; you're not too far.
So, lay down your hurt, lay down your heart,
Come as you are.*

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed.
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace.
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure. *Chorus*

There's joy for the morning; oh sinner be still.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

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 to 77977 or visit our website in order to give electronically.

OFFERTORY

He Is

David Crowder

If you're troubled
Heavy-hearted
Come to Jesus and find your peace

If you're run down
Empty-handed
Come to Jesus and find your strength

*He is Hope for the hopeless
Rest for the weary
Help for the hurting
He is, He is
Mending the broken
Bearing the burdens
All that you're needing
He is*

If you're wandering
In the darkness
Come to Jesus and find your way

If you want freedom
Need forgiveness
Just come to Jesus and find His grace *Chorus*

Comforter, Counselor, Prince of Peace
Author and Maker of everything
Defender, Deliverer, King of Kings
He is, He is

Helper and Healer forevermore
Savior and Shelter through every storm
My Refuge, Redeemer, and Lord of Lords
He is, He is

Child of Heaven and Son of Man
Provider, Protector, the Great I AM
Alpha, Omega, Beginning, and End
He is, He is *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 4:7-11

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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* | The Church at Its Best**

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

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Dean Usher · Marty Sampson · Benjamin Hastings

*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*

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

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Central Church Chamber Ensemble