



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# PREPARATION

**September 12, 2021**  
**The 16th Sunday After Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The image of the church presented in the first four chapters of 1 Corinthians is extremely ambiguous. For there is a paradox at the heart of the church. It is the painful tension between what the church claims to be and what it seems to be; between the divine ideal and the human reality; between romantic talk about ‘the bride of Christ’ and the very unromantic, ugly, unholy and quarrelsome Christian community we know ourselves to be. It is the tension between our final, glorious destiny in heaven and our present, very inglorious performance on earth. This is the ambiguity of the church.”

—JOHN STOTT

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Keep your Church, Lord God, with your perpetual mercy, and because the frailty of man without you cannot but fall, keep us always under your protection, and lead us to everything that makes for our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### **Praise my Soul the King of Heaven**

Henry Francis Lyte · John Goss

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor  
To His people in distress.  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike, He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows.  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him;  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

# WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

## Psalm 47

LEADER Clap your hands, all people!

**PEOPLE Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

LEADER For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,

**PEOPLE A great king over all the earth.**

LEADER Sing praises to God, sing praises!

**PEOPLE Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

## HYMN

# All Creatures of Our God and King

St. Francis of Assisi · David Crowder · Arr. Dan Galbraith

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice, and with us sing;  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam.  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God, and on Him cast your care!  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness;  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy Lord, I have sinned against you times without number and have been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find your mind in your word, of neglect to seek you in my daily life. My violations and shortcomings present my conscience with a long list of accusations, but, by your grace, they will not stand, for they have all been laid on Christ, my sacrifice and advocate. Go on to subdue my weaknesses and selfishness, granting me grace to live above them. Let me not be mastered by them, but may you rule over me in liberty and power. Deliver me from every evil habit, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in me, everything that prevents me from taking my deepest delight in you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### 1 John 2:1-2

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

ALL  
                  **Thanks be to God!**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

LEADER      The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL            **And also with you.**

# HYMN

## Cornerstone

Edward Mote · Eric Liljero · Jones Myrin · Reuben Morgan

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone.  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, He is Lord,  
Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide His face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
My anchor holds within the veil. *Chorus*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found!  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne! *Chorus*

# PROFESSION OF FAITH

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.

# SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM 10 AM SERVICE

Everly Belle Dykstra

Child of Jon and Lauren Dykstra

## 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 Everly'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 Everly up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

## Congregational Vow

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

## **PRAYER WITH CHILDREN**

*All preschool and elementary age children are invited to the front of the church and will be dismissed to Children's Church with their teachers where they will read, sing, learn, and play in an environment suited to their language and style. Alternatively, children are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary to worship alongside the adults for the duration of the service.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 11:30 AM SERVICE**

*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** to (833) 737-6262 or visit [centralchurchnyc.org/give](http://centralchurchnyc.org/give) in order to give electronically.*

# OFFERTORY HYMN

## We Are Yours

Jason Ingram · Jonathan Lindley Smith · Matthew Hein · Reuben Morgan

You placed eternity in our hearts.  
We were yours from the very start.  
All we've known has been torn apart,  
And now we have forever.

You gave a song for our souls to sing,  
And your life was the offering.  
Even death, it has lost its sting.  
Now we have forever.

*And you can't take away what the world didn't give.  
We were made for more, we were made for more.  
At the end of the day, this will remain,  
Forever we are yours, forever we are yours.*

You made a place at your table, God.  
Paid the way for the poor and lost,  
Called us into your open arms,  
And now we have forever. *Chorus*

No one, no one can take your place.  
No life, no death can separate,  
Your love, your love has conquered the grave.  
You conquered the grave. *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

### 1 Corinthians 1:1-19

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SERMON

# The Church The World Needs | To Corinth, with Love

Rev. Jason Harris

## THE THANKSGIVING

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

### **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

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 Messiah

Chris Tomlin · Daniel Carson · Ed Cash · Jesse Reeves

He became sin, who knew no sin,  
That we might become His righteousness.  
He humbled Himself and carried the cross;  
Love so amazing! Love so amazing!

*Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,  
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.  
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven;  
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.*

His body the bread, His blood the wine,  
Broken and poured out all for love.  
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.  
Love so amazing! Love so amazing! *Chorus*

All our hope is in You; all our hope is in You!  
All the glory to you, God,  
The light of the world! *Chorus*

## BENEDICTION

## DISMISSAL

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

### **Jesus Messiah (reprise)**

Central Church Chamber Ensemble