



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

PREPARATION

October 10, 2021

The 20th Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“We are not our own; therefore neither our reason nor our will should predominate in our deliberations and actions. We are not our own; therefore let us not presuppose it as our end to seek what may be expedient for us according to the flesh. We are not our own; therefore let us, as far as possible, forget ourselves and all things that are ours. On the contrary, we are God’s; to him, therefore, let us live and die. We are God’s; therefore let his wisdom and will preside in all our actions. We are God’s; towards him, therefore, as our only legitimate end, let every part of our lives be directed.”

—JOHN CALVIN

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord God, without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15

PSALM: Psalm 90:12-17

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Who You Say I Am

Brooke Ligertwood · Michael Guy Chislett

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in; oh, His love for me!
Oh, His love for me!

*Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed!
I'm a child of God! Yes, I am!*

Free at last, He has ransomed me; His grace runs deep.
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me.
Yes, He died for me.

*Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed!
I'm a child of God! Yes, I am!
In my Father's house is a place for me;
I'm a child of God! Yes, I am!*

I am chosen, not forsaken; I am who You say I am!
You are for me, not against me; I am who You say I am!
I am who You say I am! *Chorus*

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95:1-3

LEADER O come, let us sing to the LORD;

PEOPLE Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

LEADER Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

PEOPLE Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

LEADER For the LORD is a great God,

PEOPLE And a great King above all gods.

HYMN

Abide With Me

Henry F. Lyte · William H. Monk

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who, like Thyself, my Guide and Stay can be?
Thro' cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine thro' the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and Earth's vain shadows flee.
In life, in death, abide with me.

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

Almighty God our Father, in Jesus Christ you love us, yet we have not loved you. You have opened your heart to us, yet in our pride we have spurned your affections. You have given us every good thing, yet we have squandered your gifts. By our sin we have grieved you and hurt others, and we are not worthy to be called your children. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Cleanse us from our sin and make us to know that we are members of your household, so that we might not stray from your love but always heed the sound of your voice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Colossians 1:21-22

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

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

Abiding City

Sandra McCracken

O sweet home of love and peace,
Where pilgrims tired and troubled rest.
Into the hope of Zion lean,
Where, in Jesus' arms we will fall at last.

Addiction's empty promises,
This broken world just can't satisfy.
A sweeter song, redemption's bliss,
Is sealed for us in paradise.

*And, O, lift up your head,
For the day is near,
We have no abiding city here.*

Spirit, heal our neighborhood,
Until Your Kingdom's work is done.
Teach us what is just and good,
As we look for the city yet to come. *Chorus*

A city filled with gold and light,
God, the Builder and the Architect.
When our faith is turned to sight,
Oh, I cannot imagine it! *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.

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

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

If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give. For members and regular attenders of Central, give generously as you are able. We give because all we have has been graciously given to us by God. Our offerings express our joyful dependence upon God and our commitment to join God in his work of renewal.

*Please text **centralchurchnyc** to (833) 737-6262 or visit centralchurchnyc.org/give in order to give electronically.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

King of Glory

Bradley Avery · David Carr · Johnny Powell · Mark Lee · Samuel Anderson

Thom Brown, Soloist

Who is this King of glory that pursues me with his love,
And haunts me with each hearing of his softly spoken words.
My conscience, a reminder of forgiveness that I need.
Who is this King of glory who offers it to me.

Who is this King of angels, O blessed Prince of Peace,
Revealing things of heaven and all its mysteries.
My spirit's ever longing for His grace in which to stand.
Who is this King of glory, Son of God and son of man.

*His name is Jesus, precious Jesus.
The Lord Almighty, the King of my heart.
The King of glory.*

Who is this King of glory with strength and majesty,
And wisdom beyond measure, the gracious King of kings.
The Lord of earth and heaven, the Creator of all things.
Who is this King of glory, He's everything to 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

1 Corinthians 2:6-13

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love
him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

SERMON

The Church The World Needs | The Way of Wisdom

Rev. Chris Hildebrand

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

For the Beauty of the Earth

Folliott S. Pierpoint · William Chatterton Dix

For the beauty of the Earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.
Christ, our Lord, to Thee we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ, our Lord, to Thee we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flow'rs of Earth and buds of Heav'n,
Christ, our Lord, to Thee we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

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

For the Beauty of the Earth (reprise)

Central Church Chamber Ensemble