



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

PREPARATION

October 31, 2021

The 23rd Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The great desire of the believing heart is to be in the presence of God... The audacious claim of the [Scriptures] is that in making their home with Jesus Christ believers are actually making their home with the living God.”

—DALE BRUNER

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Father in heaven, keep your household the church in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and may devoutly serve you in good works to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146

PSALM: Psalm 119:1-8

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:11-14

GOSPEL: Mark 12:28-34

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Lither

A Mighty Fortress is our God, a Bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask Who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145

LEADER Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

PEOPLE There is no end to his greatness.

LEADER One generation shall praise your works to another.

PEOPLE And shall declare your power.

LEADER All your works praise you, LORD.

PEOPLE And your faithful servants bless you.

LEADER They make known the glory of your kingdom

PEOPLE And speak of your power.

LEADER My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD:

PEOPLE Let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

HYMN

For All The Saints

William W. How · Ralph Vaughan Williams

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
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

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. Forgive us for our lack of conviction. You have called us to speak, but we have been silent. You have called us to do what is just, but we have been fearful. Have mercy on us, and grant us courage to proclaim your gospel through our words and actions. Keep before us faithful people for us to follow so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to the praise of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

Rock of Ages

Augustus Toplady · Arr. James Ward

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone,
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace:
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
Eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
True God from true God,
Begotten, not made,
Of one Being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was
made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
And His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

10 AM SERVICE

Safe Families Testimony

Jacqueline Kouri and Karen Balzer

Executive Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church

Pastoral Vows

- 1 Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior?
- 2 Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, totally trustworthy, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, the supreme, final, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- 3 Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of the Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?
- 4 Do you promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with the system of doctrine as taught in the Scriptures and as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this vow?
- 5 Do you affirm and adopt the “Essentials of Our Faith” without exception?
- 6 Do you subscribe to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?
- 7 Do you promise subjection to your fellow Presbyters in the Lord?

- 8 Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to seek the office of the holy ministry from love to God and a sincere desire to promote his glory in the gospel of his Son?
- 9 Do you promise to continue to be zealous and faithful in promoting the truths of the gospel and the purity and peace of the church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise to you on that account?
- 10 Will you seek to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as a Christian and a minister of the gospel, whether personal or relative, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before the flock of which God has made you an overseer?
- 11 Are you now willing to take responsibility in the life of this congregation as an Executive Pastor, agreeable to your declaration when accepting their call? And will you seek to discharge your duties, relying upon the grace of God, in such a way that the entire church of Jesus Christ will be blessed?

Congregational Vows

- 1 Are you, the members of this congregation, ready to receive the Reverend Christopher R. Hildebrand as your Executive Pastor?
- 2 Do you promise to submit to him in matters of spiritual discipline, and to receive with humility and love the word of truth?

- 3 Do you promise to support your Executive Pastor with your prayers, to give encouragement in his work, and to assist him in every way as he seeks to instruct you in the things of the Lord and to lead you in the building of the Kingdom of God in this place?

- 4 Do you recommit yourselves to fulfill the terms of the call you have extended and to make provision for your Executive Pastor's needs that the name of Christ be glorified?

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

When the Saints

Sara Groves

Lord I have a heavy burden of all I've seen and know.
It's more than I can handle.
But your word is burning like a fire shot up in my bones,
and I can't let it go.

*And when I'm weary and overwrought,
with so many battles left unfought,
I think of Paul and Silas in the prison yard.
I hear their song of freedom rising to the stars.*

And when the Saints go marching in,
I want to be one of them.

Lord it's all that I can't carry and cannot leave behind.
It all can overwhelm me.
But when I think of all who've gone before and lived a faithful life,
Their courage compels me.

Lord I have a heavy burden of all I've seen and know.
It's more than I can handle.
But your word is burning like a fire shot up in my bones,
and I can't let it go. *Chorus*

I see the shepherd Moses in the Pharaoh's court.
I hear his call for freedom for the people of the Lord.

And when the Saints go marching in,
I want to be one of them.

I see the long quiet walk along the Underground Railroad.
I see the slave awakening to the value of her soul.

I see the young missionary and the angry spear.
I see his family returning with no trace of fear.

I see the long hard shadows of Calcutta nights.
I see the sisters standing by the dying man's side.

I see the young girl huddled on the brothel floor.
I see the man with a passion come kicking down that door.

I see the man of sorrow and his long troubled road.
I see the world on his shoulders and my easy load.

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 3:16-23

¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."
²¹So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

SERMON

The Church The World Needs | How to Become a Temple

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

Hosanna

Brooke Fraser

I see the King of glory,
Coming on the clouds with fire;
The whole earth shakes,
The whole earth shakes.

I see His love and mercy,
Washing over all our sin.
The people sing,
The people sing:

*Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!*

I see a generation,
Rising up to take their place,
With selfless faith,
With selfless faith.

I see a near revival,
Stirring as we pray and seek.
We're on our knees,
We're on our knees. *Chorus*

Heal my heart and make it clean;
Open up my eyes to the things unseen.
Show me how to love,
Like You have loved me.
Break my heart for what breaks Yours;
Everything I am for Your kingdom's cause,
As I walk from earth into eternity *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

Hosanna (reprise)

Central Church Chamber Ensemble