



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

PREPARATION

February 6, 2022

The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“We need not therefore be surprised if the Psalms, and the Prophets, are full of the longing for judgment, and regard the announcement that ‘judgment’ is coming as good news. Hundreds and thousands of people who have been stripped of all they possess and who have the right entirely on their side will at last be heard. Of course they are not afraid of judgment. They know their case is unanswerable—if only it could be heard. When God comes to judge, at last it will.”

—C. S. LEWIS

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, keep your household the Church continually in your true religion; that those who lean only on the hope of your heavenly grace may always be defended by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)

PSALM: Psalm 138

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

GOSPEL: Luke 5:1-11

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley · Rowland Hugh Prichard

Love Divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav'n, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all Compassion, pure, unbounded Love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, 'til in Heav'n we take our place,
'Til we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Before the Throne of God Above

Charities Lees Bancroft · Vikki Cook

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea.
A great, High Priest, Whose Name is Love;
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heaven He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free.
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the Risen Lamb,
My Perfect, Spotless Righteousness,
The Great, Unchangeable I AM,
The King of Glory and of Grace.

One with Himself, I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His blood,
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God!
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heaven He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

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 and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Psalm 103:11-12

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

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

Jesus Paid It All

Alex Nifong · Dan Galbraith

I hear the Savior say,
“Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all.”

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow’r and Thine alone,
Can change the leper’s spots
And melt the heart of stone. *Chorus*

O Praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead.
O Praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead.

And when before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save!”
My lips shall still repeat. *Chorus*

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.

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

Pray

Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

Erika Toderic Marks, Soloist

In times of sorrow, seasons of pain,
When all seems hopeless, one thing remains,
Our God is faithful, his word is true.
He said call on His name,
And He will answer you!

*When you pray,
Pray,
He has promised he will answer when you pray.
Pray, pray,
Jesus, he will answer when you pray!*

Your heart is broken, filled with despair,
Just know that Jesus,
He still hears and answers prayers.
He's ever waiting, waiting on you,
Just call on his name,
And He will see you through! *Chorus*

The enemy is defeated.
The battle is won.
The chains are broken.
Through Jesus Christ the son.
The demons will tremble.
They'll have to flee.
In the name of Jesus,
There is victory! *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

Luke 18:1-8

¹And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

SERMON

Justice & Jesus | The Political Jesus

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 · Jesse Reeves · Ed Cash · · Daniel Carson

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

Central Church Chamber Ensemble

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

This year's nominating committee would like to encourage the members of the congregation to provide suggestions for the position of Elder, Deacon and Trustee. Any name forwarded to the committee will be evaluated on the following criteria: commitment to Jesus Christ, to Central Church, and to the theology and government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, demonstrated leadership ability, and the willingness to serve. Please note that according to our by-laws all candidates must undergo a course of instruction and be approved by the Session before being nominated and presented to the congregation. If you have any questions, if you would like to suggest a candidate, or if you would like to participate in a course of instruction, please contact Kevin Brown (kevin.brown.ssr@gmail.com) or Jason Harris (seniorpastor@centralchurchnyc.org).