



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**March 13, 2022**

**The Second Sunday of Lent**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Large numbers of people have covered themselves with a decent, but thin, veneer of Christianity. They have allowed themselves to become somewhat involved; enough to be respectable but not enough to be uncomfortable. Their religion is a great, soft cushion. It protects them from the hard unpleasantness of life, while changing its place and shape to suit their convenience. No wonder the cynics speak of hypocrites in the church and dismiss religion as escapism.”

—JOHN STOTT

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we confess that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

PSALM: Psalm 27

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### 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.

## WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

### Hebrews 12:2-3

LEADER Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

**PEOPLE The author and perfecter of our faith,**

LEADER Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,

**PEOPLE Despising its shame, and is seated at the right hand of God.**

LEADER Consider him who endured such hostility from sinful people,

**PEOPLE So that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.**

## HYMN

### Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Isaac Watts · Traditional Irish Tune

Alas! and did my savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?  
Was it for crimes that I have done He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! and love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut his glories in  
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died for man, the creature's sin.  
Thus might I hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe:  
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do.  
Alas! and did my Savior bleed and did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

## **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 Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

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

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Isaac Watts

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

# 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](http://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](http://centralchurchnyc.org/give) in order to give electronically.*

# OFFERTORY HYMN

## I Will Follow

Chris Tomlin · Jason Ingram · Ruben Morgan

*Seth Ward, Soloist*

*Where You go, I'll go.  
Where You stay, I'll stay.  
When You move, I'll move.  
I will follow.*

All Your ways are good.  
All Your ways are sure.  
I will trust in You alone.  
Higher than my side,  
High above my life,  
I will trust in You alone.

*Where You go, I'll go.  
Where You stay, I'll stay.  
When You move, I'll move.  
I will follow You.  
Who You love, I'll love.  
How You serve I'll serve.  
If this life I lose, I will follow You.  
I will follow You.*

Light unto the world,  
Light unto my life,  
I will live for You alone.  
You're the one I seek.  
Knowing I will find,  
All I need in You alone, in You alone. *Chorus*

In You there's life everlasting.  
In You there's freedom for my soul.  
In You there's joy, unending joy.  
And I will follow. *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 14:25-33

The passage can be found on page 874 of the pew Bible

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

## SERMON

### *An Invitation to Discipleship* | If Anyone Comes to Me...

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

## All to Us

Chris Tomlin · Jesse Reeves · Matt Redman · Matt Maher

Precious Cornerstone, sure Foundation,  
You are faithful to the end.  
We are waiting on You, Jesus.  
We believe You're all to us.

*Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the Church.  
Let the righteousness of God be a holy flame that burns.  
Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives.  
We believe You're all to us.*

Only Son of God sent from Heaven,  
Hope and mercy at the cross.  
You are everything, You're the Promise.  
Jesus, You are all to us. *Chorus*

You're all to us, You're all to us,  
You're all to us, yes, You are.

When this passing world is made new,  
We will see You face to face,  
And forever we will worship.  
Jesus, You are all to us! *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

### **All to Us (Reprise)**

Central Church Chamber Ensemble