



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

August 7, 2022

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Finally the designation ‘word of God’ is used for Christ himself. He is the Logos in an utterly unique sense: Revealer and revelation at the same time. All the revelations and words of God, in nature and history, in creation and re-creation, both in the Old and the New Testament, have their ground, unity, and center in him. He is the sun; the individual words of God are his rays. The word of God in nature, in Israel, in the NT, in Scripture may never even for a moment be separated and abstracted from him. God’s revelation exists only because he is the Logos. he is the first principle of cognition, in a general sense of all knowledge, in a special sense, as the Logos incarnate (i.e. ‘the word made flesh’), of all knowledge of God, of religion, and theology (Matt. 11:27).”

— HERMAN BAVINCK

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose never-failing providence governs all things in heaven and earth: we humbly ask you to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us whatever may be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

PSALM: Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Traditional Welsh · Walter C. Smith

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above,
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all.
Thy wisdom so boundless, Thy mercy so free,
Eternal Thy goodness for naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 55

LEADER Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and the one who has no money, come, buy and eat!

PEOPLE **Come, buy wine and milk without money and
with price.**

LEADER Why do you spend your money for that which is
not bread,

PEOPLE **And your labor for that which does not satisfy?**

LEADER Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and
delight yourselves in rich food.

PEOPLE **Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your
soul may live.**

HYMN

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

Kate B. Wilkinson · A. Cyril Barham-Gould

May the mind of Christ my Savior
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.

May the word of Christ dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His pow'r.

May the peace of Christ my Savior
Rule my life in ev'rything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

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

Lord God, we have given more weight to our successes and our happiness than to your will. We have eaten without a thought for the hungry. We have spoken without an effort to understand others. We have kept silence instead of telling the truth. We have judged others, forgetful that you alone are the Judge. We have acted in accordance with our opinions rather than according to your commands. Within your church we have been slow to practice love of our neighbors. And in the world we have not been your faithful servants. Forgive us and help us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Psalm 103:8-13

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high 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 he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

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

Christ is Mine Forevermore

Jonny Robinson · Rich Thompson

Mine are days that God has numbered,
I was made to walk with Him.
Yet I look for worldly treasure,
And forsake the King of kings.

But mine is hope in my Redeemer,
Though I fall, his love is sure.
For Christ has paid for every failing,
I am his forevermore.

Mine are tears in times of sorrow,
Darkness not yet understood.
Through the valley I must travel,
Where I see no earthly good.

But mine is peace that flows from heaven,
And the strength in times of need.
I know my pain will not be wasted,
Christ completes his work in me.

Mine are days here as a stranger,
Pilgrim on a narrow way.
One with Christ I will encounter,
Harm and hatred for his name.

But mine is armour for this battle,
Strong enough to last the war.
And he has said he will deliver,
Safely to the golden shore.

*And mine are keys to Zion city,
Where beside the King I walk.
For there my heart has found its treasure,
Christ is mine forevermore.*

Come rejoice now, O my soul.
For his love is my reward.
Fear is gone and hope is sure,
Christ is mine forevermore. *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 submit prayer requests to 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

Free, Amen

We The Kingdom

Ariana Zayas-Cueva and Robert Cueva, soloists

Amen, amen, amen!

Amen, amen, amen!

Hope falling down like rain.

Love that I can't explain.

Peace that stills my soul.

Light in the darkest place.

Life even in the pain.

It feels like coming home.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

I am free, amen!

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

I am free, amen!

Here, I'm alive again.
Gone is the weight of sin.
Oh, sweet liberty.
Praise God! Who saved my life.
I'm bought with the blood of Christ.
I have been redeemed. *Chorus*

Free at last, free at last,
Thank God Almighty I am free at last!
All my chains are in the past,
Thank God Almighty I am free at last! *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

Psalm 119:33-40

The passage can be found on page 513 of the pew Bible.

- ³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes;
and I will keep it to the end.
- ³⁴Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
- ³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
- ³⁶Incline my heart to your testimonies,
and not to selfish gain!
- ³⁷Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;
and give me life in your ways.
- ³⁸Confirm to your servant your promise,
that you may be feared.
- ³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
for your rules are good.
- ⁴⁰Behold, I long for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life!

SERMON

***God Our Refuge* | Words that Speak Louder than Actions**

Dr. Scott Redd

Dr. Redd's bio can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.

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.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this, your Table, O Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but solely in your great mercy. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table, but you are the same Lord who always delights in showing mercy. Grant us, therefore gracious Lord, that we who now receive these gifts of bread and wine, according to our Savior's Word, may share in the body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, that we may dwell in him forever and he in us. Amen.

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.

Communion is served with wine and gluten-free bread. Individually wrapped wafers and grape juice are available at each station.

COMMUNION HYMN

King of Kings

Geoff Bullock

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope, without light,
Till from heaven you came running
There was mercy in your eyes.
To fulfill the law and prophets,
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt.

Praise the Father.

Praise the Son.

Praise the Spirit Three in One.

God of glory, Majesty

Praise forever to the King of Kings.

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation,
You did not despise the cross.
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation,
Jesus for our sake you died. *Chorus*

And the morning that you rose,
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe.
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born,
Then the Spirit lit the flame,
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By His blood and in His name,
In His freedom I am free.
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me. *Chorus*

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.

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

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Our weekly newsletter is sent out every Friday morning. Be sure to subscribe to stay up to date on everything happening at Central at centralchurchnyc.org/newsletters!

Ministry and special series newsletters and posts from our journal Christ & Contemporary Culture are sent out on a monthly or quarterly basis.

DR. REDD'S BIO

Dr. Scott Redd is the president and Stephen B. Elmer Professor of Old Testament at the Washington, D.C., campus of Reformed Theological Seminary. He received his M.Div. from Reformed Theological Seminary and completed his doctoral dissertation in the Department of Semitic Language and Egyptian Languages and Literatures at the Catholic University of America. Alongside his love of biblical theology and literature, Scott is deeply interested in theological education in a global context, an interest which has brought him to classrooms in Malta, Turkey, and East Asia. Scott, his wife Jennifer, and their five daughters live in Northern Virginia.