



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

January 8, 2023

First Sunday After Epiphany

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"Modern people in the West are embarrassed about Jesus. It is not fashionable to talk about him. To mention his name at a party is a sure conversation-stopper. That does not happen with the other leaders of the world's religions. Nobody is embarrassed to talk about them. But we could go further. There is something in us that is deeply hostile to Jesus."

—MICHAEL GREEN

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, we beseech you mercifully to receive the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that we may both perceive and know what things we ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

PSALM: Psalm 29

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Sonata No. 3, Allegro Assai

Johann Sebastian Bach

Doori Na

All Creatures of Our God and King

St. Francis of Assisi · David Crowder · Arr. Dan Galbraith

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice, and with us sing;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God, and on Him cast your care!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 35

LEADER Strengthen the weak hands,

PEOPLE **And make firm the feeble knees.**

LEADER Say to those who have an anxious heart,

PEOPLE **“Be strong; fear not!**

LEADER Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.

PEOPLE **He will come and save you.”**

LEADER Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

PEOPLE **And the ears of the deaf unstopped;**

LEADER Then shall the lame man leap like a deer,

PEOPLE **And the tongue of the mute sing for joy.**

HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Aaron Sensman · Arr. Dr. Seth Ward

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My Great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

My Gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin,
He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations, own
Your God, ye fallen race;
Look, and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My Great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

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

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Titus 3:4-6

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Rowland H. Prichard · Arr. Robert Harkness

I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered
From the curse to set me free.

*Sing, oh sing, of my Redeemer,
With His blood, He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt, and made me free.*

I will tell the wondrous story,
How my lost estate to save;
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave. *Chorus*

I will praise my dear Redeemer,
His triumphant power I'll tell,
How the victory He giveth
Over sin, and death, and hell. *Chorus*

I will sing of my Redeemer
And His heav'nly love for me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God, with Him to be. *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

Something About That Name

Anne Wilson

Sweeter than the morning,
Or the sound of the rain,
From the mouth of the preacher,
And the sinner the same,
Tender as a whisper,
But loud in its refrain,
May it hang on my lips for the rest of my days.

*There is something about the name of Jesus.
It sounds like forgiveness, sounds like amazing grace.
It beckons my soul to sing forever.
There's just something about that name.*

We pray it over family,
When we rise and when we sleep.
We speak it over sorrow,
And the soul is given peace.
We'll sing it in the famine,
Or in prosperity.
May we never forget,
That He is all that we need. *Chorus*

There is still no other name.
You still have the power to save.
You can empty any grave.
Forever Jesus, it's Your name. *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

Matthew 11:2-6

The passage can be found on page 816 of the pew Bible.

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

SERMON

The Authentic Jesus | Scandalizer

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.

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

Great Things

Jonas Myrin · Phil Wickham

Come let us worship our King.
Come let us bow at His feet.
He has done great things.
See what our Savior has done,
See how His love overcomes,
He has done great things.
He has done great things.

*Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquered the grave.
You free every captive and break every chain.
Oh God, You have done great things.
We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive.
Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high.
Oh God, You have done great things.*

You've been faithful through every storm.
You'll be faithful forevermore.
You have done great things,
And I know You will do it again.
For Your promise is "Yes and amen!"
You will do great things.
God, You do great things. *Chorus*

Hallelujah God, above it all.
Hallelujah God, unshakable.
Hallelujah, You have done great things.
Hallelujah God, above it all.
Hallelujah God, unshakable.
Hallelujah, You have done great things.
You've done great things. *Chorus*

You have done great things.
Oh God, You do great things.

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

Members of our prayer team will be available immediately following the service at the front of the sanctuary to pray confidentially for you about any need or concern you might have. We encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity to receive prayer. ∞

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTERS

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

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

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Austin and Mary-Catherine McKee** welcomed their second daughter **Cate Teresa McKee** into the world on December 10.

Have you experienced a major life event such as a birth, marriage, or baptism that you would like to share with the Central community? Fill out our online form at centralchurchnyc.org/announcements. All submissions are reviewed by Central staff before being published in the Sunday bulletin.