



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

March 5, 2023

Second Sunday of Lent

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Many who met Jesus felt they had come into contact with God. And they loved it. The God that Jesus embodied was so attractive, so fair, so loving, so altogether beautiful that they found themselves not embarrassed and alienated, but attracted to him. Jesus had made God truly accessible, for the first time in their lives.”

—MICHAEL GREEN

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 12:1-4a

PSALM: Psalm 121

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Sonata in C, K. 46

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Caroline Drexler

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?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 55

LEADER Seek the LORD while he may be found;

PEOPLE **Call upon him while he is near**

LEADER For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

PEOPLE **Neither are your ways my ways, declares the
LORD.**

LEADER For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

PEOPLE **So are my ways higher than your ways and my
thoughts than your thoughts.**

HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Elizabeth C. Clephane · Chris Miner

Beneath the cross of Jesus,
I fain would take my stand.
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land,
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus,
Mine eyes at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me.
And from my stricken heart,
With tears, two wonders I confess:
The wonders of His glorious love
And my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow
For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine
Than the sunshine of His face.
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self, my only shame;
My glory, all the cross.

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

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

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

Almighty

Chris Tomlin · Ed Cash

You have no rival. You stand alone.
The heavens worship
Before Your throne.
There is no one like You.

You have no equal.
Your Kingdom reigns.
Yours is the highest of every name.
There is no one like you.

*Almighty,
We're standing in the presence
Of Your majesty.
You're Holy.
You alone, the sovereign crown of royalty,
You're the King of Kings,
Almighty.*

Our God eternal, the great I AM.
The praise of angels
Will never end.
There is no one like You.
Eyes like fire, face like the sun,
A voice like thunder,
Who was and is and is to come. *Chorus*

I see the Holy One high and exalted.
I hide my eyes and I tremble before Him.
I tremble before Him. *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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM—10:00 AM SERVICE

Lydia Rose Howard

Daughter of John and Caroline Howard

Baptismal Vows

1 Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

2 Do you claim God's covenant promises on her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for Lydia's salvation, as you do for your own?

3 Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the truths of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring Lydia up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

1 Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting John and Caroline in the Christian nurture of their child?

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM—11:30 AM SERVICE

Stephen Stewart “Artie” Madsen III

Son of Stephen and Laura Madsen

Baptismal Vows

1 Do you acknowledge your child’s need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

2 Do you claim God’s covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for Stephen's salvation, as you do for your own?

3 Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the truths of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God’s appointment, to bring Stephen up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

1 Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Stephen and Laura in the Christian nurture of their child?

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.

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

Cavatina

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Doori Na and Jason Nong

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

Mark 10:35-45

The passage can be found on pages 846-847 of the pew Bible.

³⁵And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴²And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

SERMON

The Authentic Jesus | Magnetic Leader

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

This Is Our God

Phil Wickham

Remember those walls that we called sin and shame?
They were like prisons that we couldn't escape,
But He came, and He died, and He rose.
Those walls are rubble now.
(Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh, oh-oh-oh)

Remember those giants we called death and grave?
They were like mountains that stood in our way,
But He came, and He died, and He rose.
Those giants are dead now.
(Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh, oh-oh-oh)

This is our God.
This is who He is, He loves us.
This is our God.
This is what He does, He saves us.

He bore the cross, beat the grave.
Let Heaven and Earth proclaim
This is our God, King Jesus!
(Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh, oh-oh-oh)

Remember that fear that took our breath away?
Faith so weak that we could barely pray,
But He heard every word, every whisper.

Now those altars in the wilderness
Tell the story of His faithfulness.
Never once did He fail, and He never will. *Chorus*

Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did.
Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus.
Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did.
Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus.

Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh.
Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Jesus.
Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh.
Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Him. *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

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 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.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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."

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to fill out this year's congregational survey at centralchurchnyc.org/survey.