



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

April 2, 2023

Holy Week · Palm Sunday

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“As we arrive at Jerusalem with Jesus, the question presses upon us. Are we going along for the trip in the hope that Jesus will fulfill some of our hopes and desires? Are we ready to sing a psalm of praise, but only as long as Jesus seems to be doing what we want? The long and dusty pilgrim way of our lives gives most of us plenty of time to sort out our motives for following Jesus in the first place. Are we ready not only to spread our cloaks on the road in front of him, to do the showy and flamboyant thing, but also now to follow him into trouble, controversy, trial, and death?”

—N. T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, in tender love towards mankind you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon him and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his suffering, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Nocturne

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Marta Bagratuni

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulf, Bishop of Orléans · J.M. Neale

Instrumental

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Zechariah 9 and Psalm 118

LEADER Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

PEOPLE **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!**

LEADER Behold, your king comes to you;

PEOPLE **Triumphant and victorious is he,**

LEADER Humble and riding on a donkey,

PEOPLE **On a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

LEADER Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
LORD.

PEOPLE **Hosanna in the highest!**

HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulf, Bishop of Orléans · J.M. Neale

All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children, made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessed One.

The company of angels is praising you on high;
And we with all creation in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews, with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
For you delight in goodness, O good and gracious King!

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

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Psalm 32

Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

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.**

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.*

HYMN

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Charles Wesley · John Darwall

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore!
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and Heav'n.
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge shall come,
And take His servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

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.

PRAYER FOR DEACONS

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY

Central continues the practice of taking a special collection each year during Palm Sunday. This collection is used exclusively to provide short-term financial assistance to those in need within our church community and will be administered by our deacons. As we recall the grace that has been lavished upon us through the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, we have the opportunity to extend the generosity of God to those in need within our city and beyond.

OFFERTORY

Come, Christians, Join To Sing

Christian Bateman · Arr. by Heather Sorenson

Featuring Central Children's Choir

Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia, Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King, Alleluia, Amen!
Let all with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice.
Praise is His gracious choice, Alleluia, Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia, Amen!
Let praises fill the sky, Alleluia, Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend, to us He'll condescend.
His love shall never end, Alleluia, Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia, Amen!
Life shall not end the strain, Alleluia, Amen!

Come, everybody, let's sing! Lift your hands to the King!
Come, everybody, let's sing! Lift your hands to the King!

Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia, Amen,
(Everybody let's sing!)
Loud praise to Christ our King, Alleluia, Amen,
(Everybody let's sing!)
Let all with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice,
Praise is His gracious choice, Alleluia, Amen!

“O Come, let us sing unto the Lord!
Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our Salvation!
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
And make a joyful noise unto him with psalms!”

Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia, Amen

THE DOXOLOGY PLEASE STAND

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 21:1-17

The passage can be found on page 826 of the pew Bible.

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

¹²And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹³He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

¹⁴And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant, ¹⁶and they said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read,

“‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise?’”

¹⁷And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

SERMON

***The Authentic Jesus* | Religion Challenger**

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.

HYMN

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This Gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine;
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand.
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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.