



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

April 30, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Remember, this repentance, this willing submission to humiliation and a kind of death, is not something God demands of you before He will take you back and which He could let you off if He chose: it is simply a description of what going back to Him is like. If you ask GOD to take you back without it, you are really asking Him to let you go back without going back. It cannot happen.”

—C. S. LEWIS

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth so that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's service that they may renounce those things that are contrary to their profession and follow all such things as are agreeable to it; through our Lord Jesus Christ Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

PSALM: Psalm 23

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Sonata No. 3 - Gigue

Johann Sebastian Bach

Caroline Drexler

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Henry van Duke · Ludwig van Beethoven

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Leading us with mercy's hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward,
In the triumph song of life.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 130

LEADER Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

PEOPLE **O LORD, hear my voice!**

LEADER If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

PEOPLE **O LORD, who could stand?**

LEADER But with you there is forgiveness,

PEOPLE **That you may be feared.**

LEADER I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

PEOPLE **And in his word I hope.**

HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander · Catherine Winkworth · Christy Nockels · Arr. Seth Ward

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!
O my soul praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth.
Shelters thee under His wings, yea so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If in His love He befriend thee. *Chorus*

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly, for aye, we adore Him. *Chorus*

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 grace, in Jesus Christ, you have imputed my sin to my substitute and clothed me in a robe of righteousness, but in my daily life I still walk in rags. Forgive me for my indifference to your Word, my selfishness in prayer, my coldness of heart in worship, and my callousness towards others. Even my confession is stained with sin. I need to repent of my repentance. I need my tears to be washed. I have no robe to bring to cover my sins, no loom to weave my own righteousness. I am always going into the far country, and always returning home as a prodigal, always saying 'Father, forgive me,' and you are always bringing forth the best robe. By your grace, you always justify the ungodly. Grant that I never lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the exceeding righteousness of salvation, the exceeding glory of Christ, the exceeding beauty of holiness, and the exceeding wonder of grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

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

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Stuart Townend · Bruce Greer

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

John Moon, Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee

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

What I'm Waiting For

Doe Jones

I'm waiting on a word only You can speak.
I'm waiting on a wind only You can breathe.
Sounds like healing, freedom, resting, revelation,
I'm waiting on a word only You can speak.

*So come on Word and Spirit,
Come on move the mountain,
Lead us through the desert,
Lead us to the fountain,
Springs of living water leave me thirsty no more.
I know what I'm waiting for.
I know what I'm waiting for.*

I'm waiting on a wave only You can break.
I'm waiting on a move only You can make.
It looks like Heaven, pouring out,
The Kingdom coming down,
I'm waiting on a wave only You can break. *Chorus*

Your voice, Your voice is canceling out.
The noise,
The noise,
I'm drawn to the sound. *Chorus*

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

Luke 7:36-50

The passage can be found on page 864 of the pew Bible.

³⁶One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. ³⁷And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

⁴¹"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

SERMON

***The Authentic Jesus* | Engine of Growth**

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

What a Beautiful Name

Ben Fielding · Brooke Ligertwood

You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is,
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a beautiful Name it is; nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want Heaven without us,
So Jesus, You, brought Heaven down.
My sin was great, Your love was greater;
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is,
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a wonderful Name it is; nothing compares to this.
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

Death could not hold You; the veil tore before You.
You silenced the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory,
For You are raised to life again.
You have no rival; You have no equal.
Now and forever, God You reign.
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory;
Yours is the Name, above all names.

What a powerful Name it is,
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a powerful Name it is; nothing can stand against.
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

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!](http://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.