



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**May 7, 2023**

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The paradox of spiritual growth is that as faith deepens and brings with it new levels of joy and assurance, so also repentance deepens, bringing ever more profound an awareness of our need of Christ. The purpose of God is clear. The more we sense our need the more we shall find our need met in Christ. The more we find our need met in Christ the nearer we will come to him. The nearer we come to him the more we will discover our hearts saying: ‘If you should mark my sins, Lord, I could not stand. But there is forgiveness with you that you may be feared.’”

—SINCLAIR FERGUSON

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you alone can order the unruly wills and passions of sinful men: Grant to your people that they may love what you command and desire what you promise, that so, among the many and varied changes of the world, our heart may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### **Sonata No. 3 in F Major, Allegro—10am Service**

George Frideric Handel

*Olivia Harris*

### **Elves Dance—11:30am Service**

Ezra Jenkinson

*Eliza Harris*

### **Concerto No. 2 in G Major—11:30am Service**

Friedrich Seitz

*Charlotte Harris*

## **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Charles Wesley · Rowland Hugh Prichard

Love Divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of Heav'n, to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all Compassion,  
Pure, unbounded Love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find the promised rest:  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its Beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be:  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
'Til in Heav'n we take our place,  
'Til we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

### Isaiah 44

**LEADER** Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant;

**PEOPLE** I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.

**LEADER** I have blotted out you transgressions like a cloud and your sins like a mist;

**PEOPLE** Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

## HYMN

### Be Thou My Vision

Eleanor H. Hull · Tr. Mary E. Byrne · Traditional Irish · Arr. David Allen

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my Light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

## **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**

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have gone our own way, broken your commands, and scorned your love. We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them. For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us. By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you, and to please you more and more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**



## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**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

### Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson · Traditional American Music

Come Thou Fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of Thy unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I come.  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God.  
He to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debtor,  
Daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O, take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

## 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](http://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](http://centralchurchnyc.org/give) in order to give electronically.*

## OFFERTORY

### Jesus Changed My Life

Katy Nichole · Jonathan Smith · Benji Cowart

I spent my time running to all the wrong places.  
I thought that I would be the last one  
That You'd ever want to see.  
I was so far gone, the kind they give up on,  
But You are not the kind of God to ever give up on me.

Oh, Your kindness led me home.

*Grace came calling my name,  
Lifted my soul up out of that grave,  
Was Hell bound, lost and then found,  
Look what You've done, You've turned it all around.  
And I can testify, I'm not the same.  
Like lightning from the sky, Jesus changed my life.*

You wouldn't let go. You wouldn't leave me,  
Followed me through darkness  
And chased me down with mercy,  
You wouldn't look back. You see beyond my past.  
There is nothing I have ever done  
To make You love me less.   *Chorus*

Yeah, Jesus changed my life.

Thank You for loving me.  
Thank You for setting me free.  
Thank You for taking these chains off of me.  
Thank You that I'm not who I used to be.    *Chorus*

Oh, Jesus changed my life.  
Yeah, Jesus changed my life.

## 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

### 2 Corinthians 7:5-10

The passage can be found on page 967 of the pew Bible.

<sup>5</sup>For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. <sup>6</sup>But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, <sup>7</sup>and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. <sup>8</sup>For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. <sup>9</sup>As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

<sup>10</sup>For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

## SERMON

### *The Authentic Jesus* | True Change

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

### Christ is Enough

Reuben Timothy Morgan · Hillsong Worship

Christ is my reward,  
And all of my devotion.  
Now there's nothing in this world  
That could ever satisfy.

Through every trial,  
My soul will sing.  
No turning back,  
I've been set free.

*Christ is enough for me.  
Christ is enough for me.  
Everything I need is in You,  
Everything I need.*

Christ my all in all,  
The joy of my salvation,  
And this hope will never fail.  
Heaven is our home.

Through every storm  
My soul will sing.  
Jesus is here.  
To God be the glory. *Chorus*

I have decided to follow Jesus.  
No turning back.  
No turning back.

The cross before me.  
The world behind me.  
No turning back.  
No turning back.    *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!](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](http://centralchurchnyc.org/announcements). All submissions are reviewed by Central staff before being published in the Sunday bulletin.*

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that (a) the 2023 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Presbyterian Church (“Central Church”), a church affiliated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and (b) the 2023 Annual Meeting of the members of The Trustees of Central Presbyterian Church of the City of New York, aka Central Presbyterian Church (“Central Corporation”), a New York religious corporation incorporated in 1821 and affiliated with Central Church, will be held in the Fellowship Hall on the Sixth floor of the Church Building at 1:30pm on Sunday, June 4, 2023.

The purposes of the Annual Meetings are to:

- i. present the reports of the various church committees and respond to questions;
- ii. in the case of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Church, to elect: (a) one elder for term expiring in 2025 and two elders for terms expiring in 2026; and (b) one deacon for term expiring in 2024, one deacon for term expiring in 2025, and three deacons for terms expiring in 2026;
- iii. in the case of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Corporation, to elect one trustee for term expiring in 2024 and two trustees for terms expiring in 2026; and
- iv. to transact any other business that may properly come before such meetings.

On behalf of the Session of Central Church, by its Moderator and Clerk of Session

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Central Corporation, by its President and Secretary