



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PREPARATION

**May 14, 2023**

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“First, we must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separate from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us. Therefore to share with us what he has received from the Father he had to become ours and to dwell within us. For this reason, he is called ‘our head’ (Ephesians 4:15), and ‘the first-born among many brethren’ (Romans 8:29). We also, in turn, are said to be ‘engrafted into him’ (Romans 11:17) and to ‘put on Christ’ (Galatians 3:27); for as I have said, all that he possesses is nothing to us until we grow into one body with him.

—JOHN CALVIN

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, the giver of all good things, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and grant that by your holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guidance may perform them; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

# THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Suite Op. 3 - I. Larghetto

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

*Doori Na*

### Great is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm · William M. Runyan

Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God, my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not,  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! *Chorus*

## WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 32

LEADER Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

PEOPLE **Blessed is the one against whom the LORD counts  
no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

LEADER You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from  
trouble;

PEOPLE **You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

LEADER Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

PEOPLE **But steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts  
in the LORD.**

LEADER Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,

PEOPLE **And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

## HYMN

### O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Samuel Trevor Francis · Thomas J. Williams

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me,  
Is the current of Thy love,  
Leading onward, leading homeward to  
Thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Spread His praise from shore to shore!  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
Changeth never, nevermore!  
How He watches o'er His loved ones,  
Died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
Watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Love of ev'ry love the best!  
'Tis an ocean full of blessing,  
'Tis a haven giving rest!  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
'Tis a Heav' of Heav's to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
For it lifts me up to Thee!

## **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**

Almighty God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart: our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Yet, we confess that our hearts have been enslaved by selfish passion and base desire. We have sought after many things and have neglected the one thing needful. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. Loving God, who alone can fill our deepest longings and quiet our restless hearts, help us to turn to you and find forgiveness. Lead us home that we may again find in you our life and joy and peace. In Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### Galatians 2:20

<sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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

### He Will Hold Me Fast

Keith Getty · Kristyn Getty

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. *Chorus*

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last! *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.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM—10AM SERVICE

John Huntley Milligan

Son of Peter and Lauren Milligan

### 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 John'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 John up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

### Congregational Vows

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Peter and Lauren 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.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE—11:30AM SERVICE

*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

### Sextet No. 1, Op. 18 arr. Piano Trio

Johannes Brahms

### II. Andante ma moderato

*Doori Na, Jia Kim, Jason Nong*

## 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

### **Colossians 3:1-4**

The passage can be found on page 984 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

## SERMON

### ***The Authentic Jesus* | The Key to 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

### Who You Say I Am

Brooke Ligertwood · Michael Guy Chislett

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?  
I was lost but He brought me in; oh, His love for me!  
Oh, His love for me!

*Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed!  
I'm a child of God! Yes, I am!*

Free at last, He has ransomed me; His grace runs deep.  
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me.  
Yes, He died for me.

*Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed!  
I'm a child of God! Yes, I am!  
In my Father's house is a place for me;  
I'm a child of God! Yes, I am!*

I am chosen, not forsaken; I am who You say I am!  
You are for me, not against me; I am who You say I am!  
I am who You say I am! *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