



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

June 9, 2024

Third Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Suffering is the means by which the quality of the Christians’ faith can shine out all the more, and when Jesus is finally revealed this will result in an explosion of praise.”

—N. T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord God, the unfailing helper and guide of those whom you bring up in your steadfast love, keep us, we pray, under the protection of your good providence, and give us a perpetual reverence and love for your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)

PSALM: Psalm 130

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

GOSPEL: Mark 3:20-35

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Michael Katz

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 16

LEADER I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;

PEOPLE **In the night also my heart instructs me.**

LEADER I have set the LORD always before me;

PEOPLE **Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

LEADER Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

PEOPLE **My flesh also dwells secure.**

LEADER You make known to me the path of life;

PEOPLE **In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

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.

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

Merciful God, we humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Elisha A. Hoffman · Anthony J. Showalter · Arr. Nolan Williams, Jr.

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Chorus*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *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.

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.

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.

*You can give online by texting **centralchurchnyc** to **833-737-6262** or visiting centralchurchnyc.org/give.*

OFFERTORY

Red Sea Road

Christa Wells · Ellie Holcomb · Nicole Witt

We buried dreams,
Laid them deep into the earth behind us,
Said our goodbyes
At the grave but everything reminds us.
God knows we ache.
When He asks us to go on,
How do we go on?

*We will sing to our souls.
We won't bury our hope.
Where He leads us to go,
There's a red sea road.
When we can't see the way,
He will part the waves,
And we'll never walk alone
Down a red sea road.*

How can we trust
When You say You will deliver us from
All of this pain that threatens to take over us?
Well, this desert's dry,
But the ocean may consume,
And we're scared to follow You. *Chorus*

Oh help us believe
You are faithful. You're faithful.
When our hearts are breaking,
You are faithful. You're faithful.
Oh grant us eyes to see,
You are faithful. You're faithful.
Teach us to sing
You are faithful. You're faithful. You're faithful. *Chorus*

No, we'll never walk alone
Down a red sea road.

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

1 Peter 1:6-9

The passage can be found on page 1014 of the pew Bible.

⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

SERMON

Good for You? | Is Christianity Depressing?

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

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

We begin our worship with God's gracious invitation, and we conclude with God's blessing, his good Word. It is appropriate to look up and open our palms as we receive the Benediction to symbolize how Jesus Christ lifts our heads and to demonstrate our eagerness to receive God's blessing.

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

Members of our prayer team will be available immediately following the service at the front of the sanctuary to pray confidentially for you about any need or concern you might have. We encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity to receive prayer. ☞

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!

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. Announcements are shared on the first Sunday of each month.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that (a) the 2024 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Presbyterian Church (“Central Church”), a church affiliated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and (b) the 2024 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 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 9, 2024.

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 2024 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Church, to elect: (a) two elders for terms expiring in 2027; and (b) one deacon for term expiring in 2025, one deacon for term expiring in 2026, and three deacons for terms expiring in 2027;
- iii. in the case of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Corporation, to elect two trustees for terms expiring in 2027; 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