



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**June 16, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Abraham knew better than to trust in his own good works. Rather, he trusted in the God who justifies—wait for it—‘the ungodly’ (Romans 4:5). Now every single religious idea the world has ever seen depends on a concept of becoming more godly—more religious, more spiritual. What would be the point of religion if not to make people godly? Here is where the Christian faith diverges from ‘religion,’ and here the gospel preached by the Apostle Paul appears in its most radical form. God is the one who justifies the ungodly.”

—FLEMING RUTLEDGE

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of a godly life: Give us grace that we may always thankfully receive the inestimable benefit of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavor to follow in the blessed steps of his most holy life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forevermore. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13

PSALM: Psalm 20; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Caroline Drexler*

### A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Martin Luther

A Mighty Fortress is our God, a Bulwark never failing;  
Our Helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
the Man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask Who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs,  
no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,  
through Him Who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

## WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 9

LEADER        The LORD sits enthroned forever;

PEOPLE        **He has established his throne for justice,**

LEADER        And he judges the world with righteousness;

PEOPLE        **He judges the peoples with uprightness.**

LEADER        The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,

PEOPLE        **A stronghold in times of trouble.**

LEADER        And those who know your name put their trust  
in you,

PEOPLE        **For you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who  
seek you.**

# HYMN

## It Is Well

Horatio G. Spafford · Phillip P. Bliss

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

*It is well with my soul,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!   *Chorus*

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!   *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**

Holy Lord, we are guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find your mind in your Word, of neglect to seek you in our daily lives. Our violations and shortcomings present our consciences with a long list of accusations, but they shall not stand! For we lay them all now on Christ, our Sacrifice and Advocate. Lord, subdue our weaknesses and selfishness, granting us grace to live above them. Let us not be mastered by them, but may you rule over us in liberty and power. Deliver us from every evil habit, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, everything that prevents us from taking our deepest delight in you. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### 1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

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

## Divine Exchange

Charity Gayle

On the cross hung my pain  
And the guilt and the shame.  
Jesus bore my suffering  
To the grave to make me free.

Oh the blood that was shed,  
It now flows to cover sin.  
It washes clean and purifies  
In its healing crimson tide.

*Jesus, He took my place in divine exchange;  
Hallelujah! Grace is mine.  
Now I will live by faith for the One who saves.  
He gave all to give me life.*

His Spirit is my present help;  
I'd be lost all by myself.  
He resurrects; He sanctifies.  
He takes His power and makes it mine.    *Chorus*

I lay down all lesser things for greater gain;  
He is alive inside of me.    *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 — 11:30AM**

Enid, Mara, and Luke Thorson

## **Membership Vows**

- 1 Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in God's sight and without hope for your salvation except through his sovereign mercy?
- 2 Do you believe in the Lord Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
- 3 Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
- 4 Do you promise to serve Christ and His church by supporting this congregation in its worship of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?
- 5 Do you promise to accept the spiritual guidance of the church, to walk in a spirit of Christian love with this congregation, and to seek those things that make for unity, purity and peace?

## **Congregational Vow**

Will you, the members of this congregation and witnesses of these vows, acting on behalf of yourself and as representatives of the whole body of Christ, do everything within your power to encourage Enid, Mara, and Luke to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

## 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.*

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS — 10AM SERVICE

- 1 Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior?
- 2 Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, totally trustworthy, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, the supreme, final and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- 3 Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?
- 4 Do you promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with the system of doctrine as taught in the Scriptures and as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, you will on your own initiative make known to your church Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?

- 5 Do you affirm and adopt the “Essentials of Our Faith” without exception?
- 6 Do you subscribe to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?
- 7 Do you promise subjection to your fellow Presbyters in the Lord?
- 8 Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to accept the office of Ruling Elder/Deacon/Trustee from love of God and a sincere desire to promote His glory in the gospel of his Son?
- 9 Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in promoting the truths of the gospel and the purity and peace of the Church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise to you on that account?
- 10 Will you seek to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as a Ruling Elder/Deacon/Trustee whether personal or relative, private or public, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before this congregation of which God will make you an officer?
- 11 Are you now willing to take responsibility in the life of this congregation as a Ruling Elder/Deacon/Trustee and will you seek to discharge your duties, relying upon the grace of God, in such a way that the entire Church of Jesus Christ will be blessed?

## 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](https://centralchurchnyc.org/give)**.*

# OFFERTORY

## Me On Your Mind

Anne Wilson · Matthew West

I've read the words in red,  
How You leave the 99  
To find the one missing.  
Feels like that was written  
With me on Your mind.

And the prodigal son who ran, leaving his home behind  
The part where the father came running to meet him  
Did You say that with me on Your mind?

*Who am I that the King of the world  
Would give one single thought about my broken heart?  
Who am I that the God of all grace  
Wipes the tears from my face and says, "Come as you are"?  
You paid the price, You took the cross,  
You gave Your life and You did it all with me on Your mind,  
Me on Your mind.*

Just knowing You're mindful of me,  
Just knowing You call me Your child,  
It's flooding my soul with unspeakable hope.  
Thank You, Lord, that it's me on Your mind.    *Chorus*

Oh, oh, (Hallelujah)  
Thank You, Jesus. (Hallelujah)  
Lord, it was me on Your mind.

I've read the words in red of a heavenly home on high.  
You're preparing a place where the sorrow's erased.  
And when I stand before You, I'll find  
All along, it was me on Your mind.    *Chorus*

Woah (oh, oh, oh, oh, oh),  
It was me on Your mind.

## 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

### **Romans 5:6-11**

The passage can be found on page 942 of the pew Bible.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—<sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## SERMON

### ***Good For You?* | Is Christianity Immoral?**

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

## The Power of the Cross

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend · Arr. Dan Galbraith

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day,  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This, the pow'r of the cross.  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.   *Chorus*

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life,  
“Finished!” the vict'ry cry.   *Chorus*

Oh, to see my name written in Your wounds,  
For through Your suffering, I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the pow'r of the cross.  
Son of God slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

## 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](http://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.*