



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

August 18, 2024

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“A poor woman applied herself to Christ, and received mercy from him by the way. If we do but touch, as it were, the hem of Christ’s garment by living faith, our worst evils will be healed; there is no other real cure, nor need we fear his knowing things which are a grief and burden to us, but which we would not tell to any earthly friend.”

—MATTHEW HENRY

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and constantly give more than either we desire or deserve; Pour down on us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we dare not presume to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

PSALM: Psalm 111; Psalm 34:9-14

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Michael Katz

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Dawn Rogers · Eric Wyse

Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer, and Friend,
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace,
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way.
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

*You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore,
You give the healing and grace,
Our hearts always hunger for.
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

Almighty, infinite Father,
Faithfully loving Your own.
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne.
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. *Chorus*

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 34

LEADER I will bless the LORD at all times;

PEOPLE **His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

LEADER My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

PEOPLE **Let the humble hear and be glad.**

LEADER Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

PEOPLE **And let us exalt his name together!**

LEADER I sought the LORD, and he answered me

PEOPLE **And delivered me from all my fears.**

LEADER Those who look to him are radiant,

PEOPLE **And their faces shall never be ashamed.**

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

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 Peter 2:24

Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

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

Heal Us

Shane & Shane

*Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are.
We long to feel Thy touch.
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly.
O Savior, hear our cry.*

Our faith is feeble, we confess.
We faintly trust Thy word.
But will You pity us the less?
Be that far from You Lord!

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief,
“Lord, I believe,” with tears he cried.
“O help my unbelief!” *Chorus*

She, too, who touched you in the press,
And healing virtue stole
Was answered, “Daughter, go in peace.
Thy faith has made thee whole.”

Like her, with hopes and fears we come.
To touch You if we may,
O send us not despairing home.
Send none unhealed away. *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

Healing Is In Your Hands

Nathan Nockels · Christy Nockels · Chris Tomlin · Daniel Carson · Matt Redman

No mountain, no valley,
No gain or loss we know
Could keep us from Your love.

No sickness, no secret,
No chain is strong enough
To keep us from Your love,
To keep us from Your love.

*How high? How wide?
No matter where I am,
Healing is in Your hands.*

*How deep? How strong?
Now by Your grace I stand.
Healing is in Your hands.*

Our present, our future,
Our past is in Your hands.
We're covered by Your blood.
We're covered by Your blood. *Chorus*

In all things we know that
We are more than conquerors.
You keep us by Your love.
You keep us by Your love. *Chorus*

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

Mark 5:24-34

The passage can be found on page 840 of the pew Bible.

²⁴And Jesus went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” ²⁹And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” ³¹And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³²And he looked around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

SERMON

People Who Met Jesus | The Woman Who Tried Everything

Rev. Erik Bonkovsky

Rev. Bonkovsky's bio can be found on page 1 of the bulletin.

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.

REV. BONKOVSKY'S BIO

Erik and Sarah Bonkovsky live in Richmond, VA, with their three children (son Reed, entering his junior year of college; daughter Leland, entering her freshman year of college; and daughter Raynie, entering her sophomore year of high school). Erik is a native New Englander who planted City Church of Richmond — a PCA congregation located in the city center of Richmond — in 2008, where he still pastors today. Sarah works as a literacy specialist at The Riverside School, which focuses on helping students with dyslexia and other learning challenges.