



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

August 25, 2024

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“How does God in grace accomplish this purpose? Not by shielding us from assault by the world, the flesh and the devil, nor by protecting us from burdensome and frustrating circumstances ... but rather by exposing us to all these things, so as to overwhelm us with a sense of our own inadequacy, he drives us to cling to him more closely.”

—J.I. PACKER

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Merciful God, it is by your gift alone that your faithful people offer you true and acceptable service; Grant that we may so run to you and faithfully serve you in this life that we fail not finally to obtain your heavenly promises; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22; Psalm 84

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Caroline Drexler

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Edward Perronet · Oliver Holden

All Hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng,
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 94

LEADER If the LORD had not been my help,

PEOPLE My soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.

LEADER When I thought, “My foot slips,”

PEOPLE Your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up.

LEADER When the cares of my heart are many,

PEOPLE Your consolations cheer my soul.

LEADER The LORD has become my stronghold,

PEOPLE And my God the rock of my refuge

HYMN

And Can It Be

Charles Wesley · Thomas Campbell

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain,
For me, who Him to death, pursued.
Amazing love! how can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

*Amazing love! how can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me. *Chorus*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. *Chorus*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold, I approach th' eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. *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

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Acts 5:31

God exalted Jesus at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins.

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

Jesus Paid It All

Alex Nifong · Dan Galbraith

I hear the Savior say,
“Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all.”

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow’r and Thine alone,
Can change the leper’s spots
And melt the heart of stone. *Chorus*

O Praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead.
O Praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead.

And when before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save!”
My lips shall still repeat. *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

Where I'm Standing Now

Brandon Lake · Brian Johnson · Phil Wickham

Out of the wilderness,
Into Your deliverance,
Look where I'm standing now.

These hands that once were chained
Now lifted high in praise,
Look where I'm standing now.
Look where I'm standing now.

*I stand on the chain-breaking,
Miracle-making,
Powerful name of Jesus.
On the body-raising,
Prodigal-saving,
Powerful name of Jesus.*

Led by Your mighty hand
Into the promised land,
Look where I'm standing now.

You carried the cross for me.
Now I am a child of the King.
Oh, look where I'm standing now.
Look where I'm standing now. *Chorus*

Hallelujah, I'm free.
Hallelujah, I'm free.
Jesus my Savior rescued me. *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 2:1-12

The passage can be found on page 837 of the pew Bible.

¹And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷“Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk?’ ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹²And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

SERMON

People Who Met Jesus | The Man With Great Need

Rev. Dr. Scott Redd

Rev. Dr. Redd's bio can be found on page 19 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

This Is Our God

Reuben Morgan

Your grace is enough, more than I need;
At Your word I will believe.
I wait for You, draw near again;
Let your spirit make me new.

And I will fall at Your feet,
I will fall at Your feet,
And I will worship You here.

Your presence in me, Jesus light the way
By the power of Your word.
I am restored, I am redeemed;
By Your spirit I am free.

And I will fall at Your feet,
I will fall at Your feet,
And I will worship You here.

*Freely You gave it all for us,
Surrendered Your life upon that cross.
Great is the love poured out for all:
This is our God.*

*Lifted on high from death to life,
Forever our God is glorified.
Servant and King rescued the world:
This is our God.*

And I will fall at your feet
We sing I will fall at your feet
And I will worship you here. *Chorus*

*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. ☞

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 MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the members of the congregation of Central Presbyterian Church, an unincorporated ecclesiastical body, will be held in the church sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

The purposes of the meeting are:

- i. to present and take action on a motion, in accordance with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Book of Order 14-1(B), for the congregation to concur with the request for dissolution of the pastoral relationship with the Associate Pastor Christopher Hildebrand put forth by the Session and the Associate Pastor, following his acceptance of a call to be Senior Pastor of Church of the Redeemer of Atlanta, Georgia; and
- ii. 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

REV. DR. REDD'S BIO

Scott Redd is the president and Stephen B. Elmer Professor of Old Testament at the Washington, D.C. campus of Reformed Theological Seminary. He is also the Executive Director of the New York City campus of RTS and an ordained minister in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Scott began his career in media consultation but left the business world to pursue a Master of Divinity at RTS in Orlando, FL. He then went on to complete his doctoral dissertation in the Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures at the Catholic University of America. In 2009, Scott came back to his alma mater to join the faculty of RTS Orlando, where he also served as Dean of Students before moving to Washington, D.C. in 2012. Scott has taught and/or ministered at a number of schools, churches, and ministries, both domestic and international. Scott and his wife, Jennifer, met at the College of William and Mary. They are members of Fourth Presbyterian Church and live with their five daughters in Vienna, VA.