



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

September 8, 2024

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The Thessalonian Christians had only been believers for a short time; we don’t know how long, but it can’t have been more than a year or so at the outside. But already people for hundreds of miles around were talking about this unheard of thing: quite ordinary people had done something extraordinary, in response to an unexpected message. The only explanation was that the living God had been at work through the gospel message about Jesus. And the only appropriate response to that is thanksgiving and celebration.”

—N.T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Keep your Church, Lord God, with your perpetual mercy, and because the frailty of man without you cannot but fall, keep us always under your protection, and lead us to everything that makes for our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

PSALM: Psalm 125, 146

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Doori Na

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Isaac Watts · John Hatton

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
'Til moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen!

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

LEADER Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

PEOPLE **Serve the LORD with gladness!**
 Come into his presence with singing!

LEADER Know that the LORD, he is God!

PEOPLE **It is he who made us, and we are his;**
 we are his people, and the sheep of his
 pasture.

LEADER Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

PEOPLE **And his courts with praise!**
 Give thanks to him; bless his name!

LEADER For the LORD is good;

PEOPLE **His steadfast love endures forever,**
 and his faithfulness to all generations.

HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Aaron Sensman · Arr. Dr. Seth Ward

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My Great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

My Gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin,
He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations, own
Your God, ye fallen race;
Look, and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My Great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

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

O Lord, no day of my life has passed that has not proved me guilty in your sight. Prayers have been uttered from a prayerless heart. Praise has often been praiseless sound. My best services are filthy rags. Yet, Lord Jesus, though my sins rise to heaven, your merits soar above them. Grant me to hear your voice assuring me that by your stripes I am healed, that you were bruised for my iniquities, that you have been made sin for me that I might be righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness I may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commands. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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

The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power

Andrae Crouch

The blood that Jesus shed for me,
Way back on Calvary;
The blood that gives me strength
From day to day,
It will never lose its pow'r.

*It reaches to the highest mountain,
And it flows to the lowest valley;
The blood that gives me strength
From day to day,
It will never lose its pow'r.*

It soothes my doubts and calms my fears,
And it dries all my tears;
The blood that gives me strength
From day to day,
It will never lose its pow'r. *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 SERVICE

Dalitso Christian Moyo

Son of Twaambo and Candice Moyo

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 Dalitso'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 Dalitso up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Twaambo and Candice in the Christian nurture of their child?

COMMISSIONING OF COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS

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

Because of Jesus

Charity Gayle · Ryan Kennedy · Steven Musso · Hannah Musso · Magen Thurman

You made a covenant with me,
Signed by the blood that still speaks.
Now I'm forgiven, I'm called righteous, I'm made clean.

There on the cross at Calvary
You gave it all to purchase me.
You are the Savior and the God Who set me free.

*Now my heart cries "This is my Redeemer."
With my whole life I will give You praise.
All the glory to the One Who's worthy.
Because of Jesus, I have been changed.*

You made a way for me to enter
Into Your holy place forever.
And now I'm hidden, I am covered, I found peace.

Into your likeness You transform me,
Making me holy, like You're holy.
No longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. *Chorus*

You bring freedom to the captives,
Good news to the poor,
Healing to the broken,
And joy to those who mourn.
You turn ashes into beauty.
The ruins You restore.
I am a testimony
Of the goodness of the Lord. *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

1 Thessalonians 1:1-8

The passage can be found on page 986 of the pew Bible.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

SERMON

***Resounding Faith* | Transforming Lives**

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

Living Hope

Phil Wickham

How great the chasm that lay between us,
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation, I turned to Heaven,
And spoke Your Name into the night.
Then through the darkness, Your lovingkindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written:
Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of Ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The Cross has spoken, I am forgiven;
The King of Kings calls me His Own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever,
Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.

Hallelujah! Praise the One Who set me free!
Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain;
There's salvation in Your Name:
Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise:
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared, "The grave has no claim on Me!"
Then came the morning that sealed the promise:
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared, "The grave has no claim on Me!"
Jesus, Yours is the victory. *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

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