



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

September 22, 2024

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“When Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter in Mark 5, he ordered almost everyone out of the room, and when it was over he told them not to tell anyone. Now [in John 11] he stands in front of a large crowd, puts his reputation on the line, and and shouts to Lazarus to come out. (The tomb, like many at the time, was clearly a cave, with a large stone across its mouth.)”

—N.T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, we pray that your grace may always uphold and encourage us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Proverbs 31:10-31

PSALM: Psalm 1, 54

SECOND READING: James 3:13-4:3; 4:7-8a

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

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 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

PEOPLE **or let your holy one see corruption.**

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

Before the Throne of God Above

Charities Lees Bancroft · Vikki Cook

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea.
A great, High Priest, Whose Name is Love;
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heaven He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free.
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the Risen Lamb,
My Perfect, Spotless Righteousness,
The Great, Unchangeable I AM,
The King of Glory and of Grace.

One with Himself, I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His blood,
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God!
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heaven He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

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

Job 19:25-27

I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.

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

How Can I Keep from Singing

Chris Tomlin

There is an endless song echoes in my soul.
I hear the music ring.
And though the storms may come, I am holding on
To the rock I cling.

*How can I keep from singing Your praise?
How can I ever say enough?
How amazing is Your love?
How can I keep from shouting Your name?
I know I am loved by the King,
And it makes my heart want to sing.*

I will lift my eyes in the darkest night,
For I know my Savior lives.
And I will walk with You, knowing You'll see me through
And sing the songs You give. *Chorus*

I can sing in the troubled times,
Sing when I win.
I can sing when I lose my step
And fall down again.
I can sing 'cause You pick me up,
Sing 'cause You're there.
I can sing 'cause You hear me, Lord
When I call to You in prayer.
I can sing with my last breath.
Sing for I know
That I'll sing with the angels
And the saints around the throne. *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

More Than Able

Steven Furtick · Ben Fielding · Chandler Moore · Naomi Raine

When did I start to forget
All of the great things You did?
When did I throw away faith for the impossible?
How did I start to believe
You weren't sufficient for me?
Why do I talk myself out of seeing miracles?

You are more than able.

You are more than able.

You are more than able.

You are more than able.

Who am I to deny what the Lord can do?

And now I see all that I have.
Oh, I've got my confidence back.
I put my trust in the One who still does miracles.
You do miracles. *Chorus*

Can you imagine,
With all of the faith in the room,
What the Lord can do,
What the Lord can do?
And it's gonna happen.
Just let the Waymaker through.
He's gonna move.
He's gonna move.

Anything is possible.
Anything is possible.
Anything is possible.
Who am I to deny what the Lord can do? *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

John 11:38-44

The passage can be found on page 898 of the pew Bible.

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

SERMON

The Crowd Had Hope and Belief

Rev. Michael Davis

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

Resurrecting

Christopher Brown · Wade Joye · Steven Furtick Matthews · Thabo Ntele

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now.
The Savior knelt to wash our feet,
Now at His feet we bow.

The One who wore our sin and shame,
Now robed in majesty;
The radiance of perfect love
Now shines for all to see.

Your Name, Your Name is victory!
All praise, will rise to Christ, our King!

The fear that held us now gives way
To Him who is our peace.
His final breath upon the cross
Is now alive in me. *Chorus*

By Your spirit I will rise from the ashes of defeat;
The resurrected King, is resurrecting me!
In Your name I come alive to declare Your victory;
The resurrected King, is resurrecting me!

The tomb where soldiers watched in vain
Was borrowed for three days.
His body there would not remain:
Our God has robbed the grave!
Our God has robbed the grave! *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.