



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

September 29, 2024

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“All over the world God is building his church. Other faiths (ancient and modern) may experience a resurgence, secularism may make inroads into the church of the West, and hostile groups and governments may persecute the church and drive it underground. But the church continues to grow. In fact nothing can destroy God’s church. Jesus promised that the ‘gates of death will not overcome it’ (Matthew 16.18). That is, the church has an eternal destiny. It is indestructible. Stone by stone the building grows until one day the capstone will be put in place and the construction is complete.”

—JOHN STOTT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, give your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

PSALM: Psalm 19:7-14; 124

SECOND READING: James 5:13-20

GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-50

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Ben Sellick

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm · William M. Runyan

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! *Chorus*

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 12

LEADER Give thanks to the LORD,

PEOPLE Call upon his name,

LEADER Make known his deeds among the peoples,

PEOPLE Proclaim that his name is exalted.

LEADER Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done
gloriously;

PEOPLE Let this be made known in all the earth.

LEADER Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,

PEOPLE or let your holy one see corruption.

LEADER You make known to me the path of life;

**PEOPLE For great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel.**

HYMN

Cornerstone

Edward Mote · Eric Liljero · Jonas Myrin · Reuben Morgan

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord,
Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil. *Chorus*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found!
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne! *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

Ephesians 2:19-21

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

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

Goodness of God

Jenn Johnson · Jason Ingram · Ben Fielding · Ed Cash · Brian Johnson

I love You, Lord,
For Your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

*And all my life You have been faithful.
And all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

I love Your voice.
You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night,
You are close like no other.
I've known You as a Father.
I've known You as a Friend.
And I have lived in the goodness of God. *Chorus*

Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
With my life laid down,
I'm surrendered now.
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me. *Chorus*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
Eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
True God from true God,
Begotten, not made,
Of one Being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was
made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
And His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

COMMISSIONING OF RESOUND PROJECT INTERNS

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

Build Your Church

Naomi Raine Iton Eugene

On Christ alone,
Our Chief Cornerstone,
No other foundation
Can we build upon.
Not philosophy
Nor the wisdom of man,
All other ground
Is sinking sand.

*Upon this Rock
You build Your Church,
And the gates of hell
Will not prevail.
When we bind and loose
We proclaim Your truth,
And in Jesus' Name
We will not fail.*

Crucified,
Raised up from the dead,
Led captivity captive,
It is finished.
He gave us the keys,
His authority.
Now we are joint-heirs,
To the praise of His glory. *Chorus*

We'll never fail.
No, we will never fail.

Build Your Church.
Build it from the ground up.
It's Your Church. *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 2:3-13

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

³For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.

⁵For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. ⁶Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. ¹¹For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹²we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.”

SERMON

***Resounding Faith* | Catalyzing Mission**

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

King of Kings

Geoff Bullock

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope, without light,
Till from heaven you came running
There was mercy in your eyes.
To fulfill the law and prophets,
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father, praise the Son.
Praise the Spirit, Three in One.
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation,
You did not despise the cross.
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation,
Jesus for our sake you died. *Chorus*

And the morning that you rose,
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe.
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born,
Then the Spirit lit the flame,
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By His blood and in His name,
In His freedom I am free.
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me. *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.