



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**October 6, 2024**

**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Comfort, O Comfort my people, says your God.’ That matchless and stirring opening, the opening of course of Handel’s Messiah as well as of the greatest passage in the Old Testament, unveils a large and beautiful vista on the strange healing purposes of the creator God, and of the way in which our God draws men and women to the prophetic ministry of comfort.”

—N.T. WRIGHT

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord God, without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Job 1:1, 2:1-10

PSALM: Psalm 8, 26

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Doori Na*

### Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Henry Francis Lyte · John Goss

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor  
To His people in distress.  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike, He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows.  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him;  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

## WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

### 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 7

LEADER        Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

PEOPLE        **The Father of mercies and God of all comfort,**

LEADER        Who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction,

PEOPLE        **With the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

LEADER        Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings,

PEOPLE        **You will also share in our comfort.**

# HYMN

## O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Samuel Trevor Francis · Thomas J. Williams

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
In its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me,  
Is the current of Thy love,  
Leading onward, leading homeward  
To Thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Spread His praise from shore to shore!  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
Changeth never, nevermore!  
How He watches o'er His loved ones,  
Died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
Watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Love of ev'ry love the best!  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'Tis a haven sweet of rest!  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
'Tis a Heav'n of Heav'ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
For it lifts me up to Thee!

## **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 mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to 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. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, For I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

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

## Come Unto Jesus

Jordan Kauflin · Keith Getty · Kristyn Getty · Laura Story

Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary.  
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.  
Here bring your wounded heart, broken and needy.  
Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.

Joy of the comfortless, light for the straying,  
Hope of the penitent, peace in our strife.  
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,  
“My yoke is easy, My burden is light.”

*Come unto Jesus, come unto Jesus.  
Lay down your burdens, He is enough.  
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.*

Come, taste the Bread of Life broken for sinners.  
Drink from the cup of His promise made sure.  
Feast at His table as sons and as daughters.  
Grace overflowing is yours evermore. *Chorus*

Come now and follow Him, this life forsaking.  
All that was gained count as nothing but loss.  
Trade all this world for His kingdom unfading.  
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross.  
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross.  
Life everlasting He offers to us. *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.

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 10:00 A.M. SERVICE**

John William Ray

Son of Ryan Matthew Ray and Lucy Elizabeth Ray

### **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 John William'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 John William up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

### **Congregational Vow**

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

# **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 11:30 A.M. SERVICE**

Jay William Calvin Press

Son of Michael Press and Ann-Hunter Van Kirk

## **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 Jay William'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 Jay William up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

## **Congregational Vow**

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Michael and Ann-Hunter in the Christian nurture of their child?

## 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.*

## 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](https://centralchurchnyc.org/give).*

## OFFERTORY

### Be Still, My Soul

Jean Sibelius - Arr. Mandi Kitchen

*Doori Na, violin*

*Jon Dykstra, piano*

# 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

### Isaiah 40:1-11

The passage can be found on pages 599-600 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass;

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers; the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers; the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him

and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms

and carry them in his bosom

and gently lead the mother sheep.

## SERMON

### The God of All Comfort

Rt. Rev. N.T. Wright

Rt. Rev. Wright's bio can be found on page 18 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

## Hold On To Me

Lauren Daigle

When the best of me is barely breathin',  
When I'm not somebody I believe in,  
Hold on to me.

When I miss the light the night has stolen,  
When I'm slammin' all the doors You've opened,  
Hold on to me.  
Hold on to me.

*Hold on to me when it's too dark to see You,  
When I am sure I have reached the end.  
Hold on to me when I forget I need You.  
When I let go, hold me again.*

When I don't feel like I'm worth defending,  
When I'm tired of all my pretending,  
Hold on to me.

When I start to break in desperation  
Underneath the weight of expectation,  
Hold on to me.  
Hold on to me. *Chorus*

I could rest here in Your arms forever,  
'Cause I know nobody loves me better.  
Hold on to me.  
Hold on to me.

# 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](http://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.*

### RT. REV. N.T. WRIGHT'S BIO

*Prof. N.T. Wright (Tom) is a leading biblical scholar, former Bishop of Durham in the Church of England, and Senior Research Fellow at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. He was formerly a Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at St. Mary's College in the University of St. Andrews. He also studied for the ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and was ordained at Merton College, Oxford. Prof. Wright holds a D.Phil. from Oxford University in addition to several honorary doctorates. Tom has written over eighty books, including the multi-volume work "Christian Origins and the Question of God." Tom is married to Maggie and they have four grown children and several grandchildren.*