



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**November 10, 2024**

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The modern church must remember that no government, social institution, or foreign or economic policy can guarantee peace and security. To peg our hopes on a political personality, a party, a legislative bill, or even the democratic process is to place ourselves in the same position of those about whom Paul warned the Thessalonians. Those who cry ‘peace and security’ and divert their attention from God are unaware of just how quickly it can all be stripped away.”

—JOHN BYRON

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, we pray, absolve your people from their offenses; that through your bountiful goodness we may be set free from the chains of all those sins which in our frailty we have committed: grant this, heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

PSALM: Psalm 127; 146

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28

GOSPEL: Mark 12:38-44

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Doori Na*

### Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Chris Tomlin

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And Grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that Grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

*My chains are gone:  
I've been set free!  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me,  
And like a flood His mercy reigns;  
Unending love, amazing grace.*

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures. *Chorus*

## WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

### Isaiah 59

LEADER        The LORD saw it, and it displeased him,

PEOPLE        **That there was no justice.**

LEADER        He saw that there was no man,

PEOPLE        **And wondered that there was no one to intercede;**

LEADER        Then his own arm brought him salvation,

PEOPLE        **And his righteousness upheld him.**

LEADER        He put on righteousness as a breastplate,

PEOPLE        **And a helmet of salvation on his head;**

LEADER        So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the  
west,

PEOPLE        **And his glory from the rising of the sun;**

LEADER        For he will come like a rushing stream,

PEOPLE        **Which the wind of the LORD drives.**

# HYMN

## In Christ Alone

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!  
This Gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
‘Til on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For ev’ry sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His and He is mine;  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand.  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'Til He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

## **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.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## Colossians 1:13-14

God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the 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

## 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 - 10:00 A.M. SERVICE

Edward Merrick Ukrop

Son of Edward Berkeley Ukrop and Margaret Merrick Ukrop

## 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 Edward'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 Edward up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

## Congregational Vow

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

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

Joseph Stephen Novota

Son of Zach and Erica Novota

## 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 Joseph'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 Joseph up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

## Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Zach and Erica 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.*

# COMMISSIONING OF HANSOL KANG - NEW RESOUND PROJECT PASTORAL RESIDENT

## 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

### Sonata No. 1 BWV1001

#### III. Siciliana

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Doori Na, violin*

## 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 5:1-11

The passage can be found on pages 987-988 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

## SERMON

***Resounding Faith* | Providing Encouragement**

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

## Divine Exchange

Charity Gayle

On the cross hung my pain  
And the guilt and the shame.  
Jesus bore my suffering  
To the grave to make me free.

Oh the blood that was shed,  
It now flows to cover sin.  
It washes clean and purifies  
In its healing crimson tide.

*Jesus, He took my place in divine exchange;  
Hallelujah! Grace is mine.  
Now I will live by faith for the One who saves.  
He gave all to give me life.*

His Spirit is my present help;  
I'd be lost all by myself.  
He resurrects; He sanctifies.  
He takes His power and makes it mine.    *Chorus*

I lay down all lesser things for greater gain;  
He is alive inside of 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](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.*