



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

November 24, 2024

Christ the King Sunday

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The early Christians knew a lot of suffering; Paul wanted them to learn how to celebrate in the midst of it. Learning to thank God for whatever he gives is sometimes difficult, but it goes with celebrating the lordship of Jesus over the world in advance of its being made public and generally recognized.”

—N.T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up, we beseech you, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 23:1-7

PSALM: Psalm 93; 132:1-12, (13-18)

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

GOSPEL: John 18:33-37

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Ben Sellick

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander · Catherine Winkworth · W. Sterndale Bennett

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen
How thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Revelation 4:11; 5:12-13

LEADER You are worthy, our Lord and God,

PEOPLE **To receive glory and honor and power,**

LEADER For you created all things,

PEOPLE **And by your will they were created and have
their being.**

LEADER Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,

PEOPLE **To receive power and wealth and wisdom and
strength and honor and glory and praise!**

LEADER To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb,

PEOPLE **Be praise and honor and glory and power, for
ever and ever! Amen!**

HYMN

All Creatures of our God and King

St. Francis of Assisi · David Crowder · Arr. Dan Galbraith

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluia!

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
and praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of the world and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Revelation 5:5, 9-10

Weep no more! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. With his blood he has purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. He has made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth!

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

King of Kings

Jason Ingram · Brooke Ligertwood · Scott Ligertwood

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.

*Praise the Father. Praise the Son.
Praise the Spirit, three in one.
God of glory, majesty.
Praise forever to the King of Kings.*

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

Behold (Then Sings My Soul)

Joel Houston

Behold the Father's heart, the mystery He lavishes on us,
As deep cries out to deep, oh how desperately He wants us!
The things of earth stand next to Him like a candle to the sun.
Unfailing Father, what compares to His great love?

Behold His holy Son, the Lion and the Lamb given to us.
The Word became a Man that my soul should know its Savior.
Forsaken for the sake of all mankind, salvation is in His blood.
Jesus Messiah, the Righteous died for love.
It wasn't over for He is the Risen One.

*Then sings my soul, then sings my soul,
How great Your Love is, How great Your Love is.*

Behold, I have a Friend, the Spirit breathing holy fire within.
My ever present Help, speaking truth when I can't find it.
Light up this broken heart and light my way,
Until my time on earth is done.
Oh Holy Spirit, breathe in me like kingdom come.
Oh Holy Spirit, let Your work in me be done. *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 5:16-28

The passage can be found on page 988 of the pew Bible.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

²⁵Brothers, pray for us.

²⁶Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

²⁷I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

SERMON

***Resounding Faith* | Igniting Worship**

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

Let Us Adore

Elevation Worship

For the unclean, the unholy,
For the broken, the unworthy,
You came. Jesus you came.

For the wounded, for the hurting,
For the lost, and for the lonely,
You came. Jesus you came.

*O come all ye faithful.
Bow before our Savior.
Come let us adore
The one who came for us.
Glory in the highest.
Praise the name of Jesus.
Our King has come!*

For the outcast, the defeated,
For the weary, for the weakest,
You came. Jesus you came. *Chorus*

O come let us adore him,
For he alone is worthy.
Our King has come!
Our King has come!

O give him all the glory,
For he alone is worthy.
Our King has come!
Our King has come! *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. ☺