



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**December 8, 2024**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The Second Person in God, the Son, became human Himself: was born into the world as an actual man—a real man of a particular height, with hair of a particular color, speaking a particular language, weighing so many stone. The Eternal Being, who knows everything and who created the whole universe, became not only a man but (before that) a baby, and before that a fetus inside a Woman’s body. If you want to get the hang of it, think how you would like to become a slug or a crab.”

—C.S. LEWIS

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, encouraged and supported by your holy Word, we may embrace and always hold fast the joyful hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Ben Sellick*

### Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (Traditional)

Charles Wesley · Rowland H. Prichard

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Jesus! What a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;  
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, He, my Savior, makes me whole.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah! What a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.

# HYMN

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Traditional English

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel.  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

# CALL TO WORSHIP

## Isaiah 11

LEADER        There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of  
                     Jesse,  
                     and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

PEOPLE        **And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
                     the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
                     the Spirit of counsel and might,  
                     the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the  
                     LORD.**

LEADER        And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
                     He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
                     or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

PEOPLE        **But with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
                     and decide with equity for the meek of the  
                     earth.**

# HYMN

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel (continued)

Traditional English

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with Heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

## **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**

Heavenly Father, you created us to be complete and whole people. But we have become fragmented and broken by sin. We have sinned against you and against one another, in thought, word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died and rose for us, forgive us and renew us. Let your light shine through our cracks and scars so that we might bring light to the world, showing that in you we are made whole. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**



# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## Titus 2:13-14

We are waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

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

## What Child Is This?

William Chatterton Dix · Traditional English

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through;  
The cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of kings, salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

# 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

John Miller George

Son of Bernard and Bryn George

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

## Congregational Vow

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

## **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS - 10:00 A.M. SERVICE**

Bernard and Bryn George

### **Membership Vows**

- 1 Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in God's sight and without hope for your salvation except through his sovereign mercy?
- 2 Do you believe in the Lord Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
- 3 Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
- 4 Do you promise to serve Christ and His church by supporting this congregation in its worship of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?
- 5 Do you promise to accept the spiritual guidance of the church, to walk in a spirit of Christian love with this congregation, and to seek those things that make for unity, purity and peace?

### **Congregational Vow**

Will you, the members of this congregation and witnesses of these vows, acting on behalf of yourself and as representatives of the whole body of Christ, do everything within your power to encourage Bernard and Bryn to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

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

Auguste Alexandre Junghyun Yu Zhou

Son of Jean Hee Yu and Penghui Zhou

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

## Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Jean Hee in the Christian nurture of her 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

### Messiah

George Frideric Handel

*Rachael Anacker Dague, soloist*  
*Pamela Brumley, soloist*

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd;  
and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,  
and carry them in His bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto Him, all ye that labour,  
come unto Him that are heavy laden,  
and He will give you rest.  
Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him,  
for He is meek and lowly of heart,  
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

# 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 4:1-15

The passage can be found on pages 888-889 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup>(although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), <sup>3</sup>he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. <sup>4</sup>And he had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup>So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup>A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob? He



gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

## SERMON

### ***How Not to Be a Heretic* | How Not to Be a Docetist**

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

## He Shall Reign Forevermore

Aaron Arterberry · Chris Tomlin · Connor Arterberry · Matthew Maher

In the bleak mid-winter, all creation groans  
For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone.  
Light is breaking  
In a stable for a throne.

*And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.  
Unto us a child is born,  
The King of kings and Lord of lords.  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.*

If I were a wise man, I would travel far.  
And if I were a shepherd, I would do my part.  
But poor as I am,  
I will give to Him my heart.   *Chorus*

Here within a manger lies  
The One who made the starry skies.  
This baby born for sacrifice,  
Christ, the Messiah.  
Into our hopes, into our fears,  
The Savior of the world appears.  
The promise of eternal years,  
Christ, the Messiah.

He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.   *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. ☞*