



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**March 23, 2025**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“He who is angry without cause, sins. But he who is not angry when there is cause, sins. For unreasonable patience is the hotbed of many vices.”

—JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

We beseech you, almighty God, look on the heartfelt desires of your servants, and stretch forth the right hand of your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Marta Bagratuni*

### Holy, Holy, Holy

Reginald Heber · John B. Dykes

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Tho' the darkness hide Thee,  
Tho' the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see.  
Only Thou art holy- there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, in purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky, and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 145

LEADER        The LORD is gracious and compassionate,

PEOPLE        **Slow to anger and rich in love.**

LEADER        The LORD is good to all;

PEOPLE        **He has compassion on all he has made.**

LEADER        All your works praise you, LORD;

PEOPLE        **Your faithful people extol you.**

LEADER        They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak  
of your might,

PEOPLE        **So that all people may know of your mighty  
acts and the glorious splendor of your  
kingdom.**

# HYMN

## O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Phillip P. Bliss · Arr: Ron McGee

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
That in Thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that foll'west all my way,  
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;  
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,  
And from the ground, there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

## **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, loving King, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to you and ask that you cover us in Christ. Let us hear your voice saying: His blood is your peace, His death is your freedom, His Spirit is your power. And let our hearts know that your service is perfect freedom. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## Isaiah 43:25

I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

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

## Heal Us

William Cowper · Kevin Twit · Lucas Morton

*Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are.  
We long to feel Thy touch.  
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly.  
O Savior, hear our cry.*

Our faith is feeble, we confess.  
We faintly trust Thy word.  
But will You pity us the less?  
Be that far from You Lord!

Remember him who once applied  
With trembling for relief,  
“Lord, I believe,” with tears he cried.  
“O help my unbelief!” *Chorus*

She, too, who touched you in the press,  
And healing virtue stole  
Was answered, “Daughter, go in peace.  
Thy faith has made thee whole.”

Like her, with hopes and fears we come.  
To touch You if we may,  
O send us not despairing home.  
Send none unhealed away. *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.

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

# OFFERTORY

## Run To The Father

Cody Carnes

I've carried a burden for too long on my own.  
I wasn't created to bear it alone.  
I hear Your invitation  
To let it all go.  
I see it now.  
I'm laying it down.  
I know that I need You.

*I run to the Father.  
I fall into grace.  
I'm done with the hiding,  
No reason to wait.  
My heart needs a surgeon.  
My soul needs a friend.  
So I'll run to the Father  
Again and again  
And again and again.*

You saw my condition,  
Had a plan from the start.  
Your Son for redemption,  
The price for my heart.  
I don't have a context  
For that kind of love.  
I don't understand.  
I can't comprehend.  
All I know is I need You.    *Chorus*

My heart has been in Your sights  
Long before my first breath.  
Running into Your arms  
Is running to life from death.  
I feel this rush deep in my chest.  
Your mercy is calling out.  
Just as I am, You pull me in.  
I know I need You now.   *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

## Mark 3:1-6

The passage can be found on page 838 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>2</sup>And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup>And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." <sup>4</sup>And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

## SERMON

### *The Emotional Life of Jesus | Anger*

Rev. Andrew Smith

# 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

## Living Hope

Phil Wickham

How great the chasm that lay between us,  
How high the mountain I could not climb.  
In desperation, I turned to Heaven,  
And spoke Your Name into the night.  
Then through the darkness, Your lovingkindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul.  
The work is finished, the end is written:  
Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of Ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame.  
The Cross has spoken, I am forgiven;  
The King of Kings calls me His Own.  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever,  
Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.

*Hallelujah! Praise the One Who set me free!*  
*Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me!*  
*You have broken every chain;*  
*There's salvation in Your Name:*  
*Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise:  
Your buried body began to breathe.  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared, "The grave has no claim on Me!"  
Then came the morning that sealed the promise:  
Your buried body began to breathe.  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared, "The grave has no claim on Me!"  
Jesus, Yours is the victory. *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. ☞*