



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

April 17, 2025

Holy Week · Maundy Thursday

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

This is the night when Jesus gave himself into the hands of those who would betray him. This is the night when Jesus gathered with his disciples in the upper room. This is the night when Jesus gave us this holy feast, that as we break the bread and drink the cup we may here proclaim his holy sacrifice, and come at the last to his table in heaven. This is the night when Jesus took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, showing us how to honor and serve one another in love. This is the night for watching and prayer.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Merciful God, you have made all men and hate nothing that you have made, nor do you desire the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live: have mercy upon all who do not know you. Take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt for your Word; and fetch them home, blessed Lord, to your flock, so that they may be saved among the remnant of the true Israel, and become one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Isaac Watts · Traditional Irish Tune

Alas! and did my savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?
Was it for crimes that I have done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When Christ, the mighty Maker,
Died for man, the creature's sin.
Thus might I hide my blushing face while
His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.
Alas! and did my Savior bleed
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 116

LEADER What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?

PEOPLE **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

LEADER I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

PEOPLE **Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.**

LEADER I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

PEOPLE **I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,**

LEADER In the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

PEOPLE **Praise the LORD!**

HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Sandra McCracken · Derek Webb · Elizabeth C.D. Clephane

Beneath the cross of Jesus,
I fain would take my stand.
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land,
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus,
Mine eyes at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me.
And from my stricken heart, with tears,
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of His redeeming love
And my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow
For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of His face.
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self, my only shame;
My glory, all the cross.

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, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 5:7-8

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

Upon a Life I Have Not Lived

Horatius Bonar · Kevin Twit

Upon a life, I have not lived,
Upon a death, I did not die,
Another's life; Another's death,
I stake my whole eternity.

Not on the tears, which I have shed,
Not on the sorrows I have known,
Another's tears; Another's griefs,
On these I rest, on these alone.

Oh Jesus, Son of God,
I build on what Thy cross has done for me;
There both my life and death I read,
My guilt, my pardon there I see.

Lord, I believe; oh deal with me,
As one who has Thy Word believed!
I take the gift, Lord, look on me,
As one who has Thy gift received.

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.

OFFERING

If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give. For members and regular attenders of Central, give as 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

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever;
E'en the sp'rit of truth.

(from John 14:15-17)

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

Matthew 26:36-46

The passage can be found on page 832 of the pew Bible.

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

SERMON

The Emotional Life of Jesus | Agony

Hansol Kang

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

Abide with Me

Henry F. Lyte · William H. Monk

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, though I oft left Thee,
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who, like Thyself, my Guide and Stay can be?
Thro' cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee.
In life, in death, Lord, abide with 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

DISMISSAL IN SILENCE

LEADER Let us go forth to serve the world as those who
 love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

*Please take a few minutes to fill out this year's congregational survey at
centralchurchnyc.org/survey.*