



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“If we let Him...He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course, on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness. The process will be long and in parts very painful; but that is what we are in for. Nothing less.”

—C. S. LEWIS

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth so that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's service that they may renounce those things that are contrary to their profession and follow all such things as are agreeable to it; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

PSALM: Psalm 23

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Doori Na

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Edward Perronet · Oliver Holden

All Hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng,
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 8

LEADER When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

PEOPLE **The moon and the stars, which you have set in place,**

LEADER What is man that you are mindful of him,

PEOPLE **And the son of man that you care for him?**

LEADER Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings,

PEOPLE **And crowned him with glory and honor.**

HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander · Catherine Winkworth · Christy Nockels · Arr. Seth Ward

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?

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

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 in His love He befriend thee. *Chorus*

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. *Chorus*

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

Almighty and most merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Colossians 1:19-20

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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

How Marvelous (I Stand Amazed)

Charles H. Gabriel · Chris Tomlin · Arr. John Wasson

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

*Singin' how marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful!
Is my Savior's love for me!*

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone. *Chorus*

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
'Twill be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me. *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 A.M. SERVICE

Frances Jane Bush

Daughter of Adam and Laura Bush

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 her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for Frances' 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 her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the truths of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring Frances up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Adam and Laura 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.

MISSION MOMENT

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

Christus Victor (Amen)

Bryan Fowler · Keith Getty · Kristyn Lennox Getty · Matt Boswell · Matt Papa

O Most High, King of the ages,
Great I AM, God of wonders,
By the blood You have redeemed us,
Led us through mighty waters,
Our strength, our song, our sure salvation.

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power,
For the battle You have won.
Hallelujah! Amen!*

O Most High, dwelling among us,
Son of Man sent for sinners,
By Your blood You have redeemed us,
Spotless Lamb, mighty Savior,
Who lived, who died, who rose victorious.

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
For the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!*

*With every tribe and every tongue
We join the anthem of the angels
In the triumph of the Son.
Hallelujah! Amen!*

O Most High, King of the nations,
Robed in praise, crowned with splendor,
On that day who will not tremble
When You stand, Christ the Victor
Who was, and is, and is forever? *Chorus*

Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen *Chorus*

Sing the victory of the Lamb!
Hallelujah! Amen!

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

Romans 8:17-21

The passage can be found on page 944 of the pew Bible.

¹⁷And if we're children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

SERMON

Practicing the Resurrection | Suffering and Glory

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

Resurrecting

Christopher Brown · Wade Joye · Steven Furtick Matthews · Thabo Ntele

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now.
The Savior knelt to wash our feet,
Now at His feet we bow.

The One who wore our sin and shame,
Now robed in majesty;
The radiance of perfect love
Now shines for all to see.

*Your Name, Your Name is victory!
All praise will rise to Christ our King!*

The fear that held us now gives way
To Him who is our peace.
His final breath upon the cross
Is now alive in me. *Chorus*

By Your spirit I will rise from the ashes of defeat;
The resurrected King is resurrecting me!
In Your name I come alive to declare Your victory;
The resurrected King is resurrecting me!

The tomb where soldiers watched in vain
Was borrowed for three days.
His body there would not remain:
Our God has robbed the grave!
Our God has robbed the grave! *Chorus*

By Your spirit I will rise from the ashes of defeat;
The resurrected King is resurrecting me!
In Your name I come alive to declare Your victory;
The resurrected King is resurrecting 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

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. ☞