



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

May 25, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Paul’s doctrine of assurance was not simply that [Jesus-followers] would go to heaven when they died - though of course he believed that at death they would be ‘with the Messiah,’ and that the Spirit would then give them new bodily life in the final resurrection. His doctrine of assurance was to confirm that they, the Jesus-believing messianic people, were in fact the true people of the creator God, and that God was being glorified and would be glorified through their suffering and prayerful witness, even in the present time.”

—N. T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, the giver of all good things, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and grant that by your holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guidance may perform them; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

PSALM: Psalm 148

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Marta Bagratuni

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel J. Stone · Samuel S. Wesley · Brian Moss

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one over all the earth;
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 42

LEADER I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;

PEOPLE **I will take you by the hand and keep you;**

LEADER I will give you as a covenant for the people,

PEOPLE **A light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,**

LEADER To bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

PEOPLE **From the prison those who sit in darkness.**

LEADER I am the LORD; that is my name;

PEOPLE **My glory I give to no other.**

LEADER Behold, the former things have come to pass,

PEOPLE **And new things I now declare;**

LEADER Before they spring forth

PEOPLE **I tell you of them.**

HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Aaron Sensman · Arr. Dr. Seth Ward

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My Great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

My Gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin,
He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations, own
Your God, ye fallen race;
Look, and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My Great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

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

Holy Father, forgive us. Though you should guide us, we inform ourselves. Though you should rule us, we control ourselves. Though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. For we think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Heal our confused mind with your word, heal our divided will with your law, heal our troubled conscience with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

Michael Farren · Rich Thompson · Jonny Robinson

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, “All is mine.”
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, His power is displayed.

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley, He will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome,
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, “I am free,”
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me,
Until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to Him,
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat,
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

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.

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

Holy Forever

Jason Ingram · Brian Johnson · Chris Tomlin · Phil Wickham · Jenn Johnson

A thousand generations falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb.
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.

Your name is the highest.
Your name is the greatest.
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.

*And the angels cry holy.
All creation cries holy.
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy forever.*

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
We'll sing the song forever and amen.

*And the angels cry holy.
All creation cries holy.
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy forever.*

*Hear Your people sing holy.
To the King of kings, holy.
You will always be holy,
Holy forever.*

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 8:28-30

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

²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

SERMON

Practicing the Resurrection | Assurance
Twaambo Moyo

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

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

Sing the victory of the Lamb!
Hallelujah! Amen!

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. ☞

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that (a) the 2025 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Presbyterian Church (“Central Church”), a church affiliated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and (b) the 2025 Annual Meeting of the members of The Trustees of Central Presbyterian Church of the City of New York, aka Central Presbyterian Church (“Central Corporation”), a New York religious corporation incorporated in 1821 and affiliated with Central Church, will be held in the fellowship hall on the sixth floor of the church building at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

The purposes of the Annual Meetings are to:

- i. present the reports of the various church committees and respond to questions;
- ii. in the case of the 2025 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Church, to elect: (a) one elder for term expiring in 2026, one elder for term expiring in 2027, and two elders for terms expiring in 2028; and (b) three deacons for terms expiring in 2028;
- iii. in the case of the 2025 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Corporation, to elect two trustees for terms expiring in 2028; and
- iv. to transact any other business that may properly come before such meetings.

On behalf of the Session of Central Church, by its Moderator and Clerk of Session

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Central Corporation, by its President and Secretary