



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

June 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Jesus Christ’s own heart for you is flourishing growth. He understands more deeply than you do the psychology of the heart fueling the sin you can’t seem to leave behind once and for all. And he is well prepared and fully equipped to walk you out of that darkness. For he has given you the most precious gift of all: his own Holy Spirit... You aren’t alone. You have a companion living within you. He is there to stay, and he provides everything you need to grow in Christ.”

—DANE ORTLUND

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant to us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and always to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

PSALM: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

SECOND READING: Romans 8:14-17

GOSPEL: John 14:8-17, (25-27)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Doori Na

Come Down, O Love Divine

Bianco da Siena · Vaughan Williams

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till Love create a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Acts 2:1-8, 11

LEADER When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

PEOPLE **And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind,**

LEADER And it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

PEOPLE **And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.**

LEADER And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

PEOPLE **Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.**

LEADER And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

PEOPLE **And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?**

- LEADER** And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?
- PEOPLE** —We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley · Rowland Hugh Prichard

Love Divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav'n, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all Compassion, pure, unbounded Love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, 'til in Heav'n we take our place,
'Til we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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

Gracious God, you send us the Spirit of power, but we remain captive to fear. You send us the Spirit of truth, but we cling to our illusions. You send us the Spirit of unity, but we produce division. You send us the Spirit of love, but we refuse to serve. Forgive us for resisting the work of your Spirit in our lives. Enable us, by your grace, to live out our identity as your beloved sons and daughters and to bear witness to the reality of your redeeming love. We ask this not upon our deserving it, or even the honesty of our confession, but on the basis of Jesus' finished work on the cross. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if 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.

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

Goodness of God

CeCe Winans · Ben Fielding · Brian Johnson · Edward Martin Cash ·
Jason Ingram · Jenn Johnson

I love You, Lord,
For Your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

*'Cause all my life You have been faithful,
And all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

I love Your voice.
You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, You are close like no other.
I've known You as a Father.
I've known You as a Friend.
And I have lived in the goodness of God. *Chorus*

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I surrender now.
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after 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

Charlotte Louisa Madsen

Daughter of Stephen S. Madsen Jr. and Laura B. Madsen

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

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Stephen 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - 11:30 A.M. SERVICE

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

The Commission

Cain

See my hands and look at my feet.
It's okay if it's hard to believe.
I have faith you will do greater things.
It's my time to go, but before I leave,

*Go tell the world about me.
I was dead, but now I live.
I've gotta go now for a little while,
But goodbye is not the end.*

Don't forget the things that I taught you.
I've conquered death, and I hold the keys.
Where I go you will go too, someday,
But there's much to do here before you leave. *Chorus*

[But goodbye is not the...]
End of the journey, the end of the road.
My spirit is with you wherever you go.
You have a purpose, and I have a plan.
I'll make you this promise:
I'll come back again. But until then... *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

Acts 1:1-11

The passage can be found on page 909 of the pew Bible.

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

SERMON

Sent by God | Sent Together

Rev. Walter Henegar

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

King of Kings

Jason Ingram · Brooke Ligertwood · Scott Ligertwood

In the darkness we were waiting,
Without hope, without light,
Till from heaven You came running,
There was mercy in Your eyes.
To fulfill the law and prophets,
To a virgin came the Word,
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father. Praise the Son.
Praise the Spirit, three in one.
God of glory, majesty.
Praise forever to the King of Kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation,
You did not despise the cross.
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation,
Jesus for our sake You died. *Chorus*

And the morning that You rose,
All of heaven held its breath,
Till that stone was moved for good,
For the Lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs,
And the angels stood in awe,
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born,
Then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By His blood and in His Name,
In His freedom I am free,
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me. *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. ☞

REV. WALTER HENEGAR'S BIO

Rev. Walter Henegar is the senior pastor of Atlanta Westside Presbyterian Church, which he and his wife, Anne, planted in 2007. He grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee, received his bachelor's degree in English literature at Northwestern University, and received his M. Div. at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. Before seminary, he worked in Nashville as a carpenter, a public relations executive, and a business writer. Walter and Anne met as infants and have been married since 1995. They have two grown daughters, a son-in-law, and a grandchild on the way.

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