



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**August 3, 2025**

**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“We can do more than pray after we have prayed, but we cannot do more than pray until we have prayed.”

—ADONIRAM JUDSON

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and so by your mercy keep us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Hosea 11:1-11

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-9, 43

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Ben Sellick*

### Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson · Traditional American Music

Come Thou Fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of Thy unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I've come.  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God.  
He to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debtor,  
Daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O, take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 95

LEADER Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

PEOPLE **Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

LEADER Let us come before him with thanksgiving,

PEOPLE **And extol him with music and song.**

LEADER For the LORD is the great God, the great King  
above all gods.

PEOPLE **In his hands are the depths of the earth, and the  
mountain peaks belong to him.**

LEADER The sea is his, for he made it,

PEOPLE **And his hands formed the dry land.**

LEADER Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel  
before the LORD our Maker;

PEOPLE **For he is our God and we are the people of his  
pasture, the flock under his care.**

# HYMN

## Be Thou My Vision

Eleanor H. Hull · Tr. Mary E. Byrne · Traditional Irish · Arr. David Allen

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my Light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

## **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**

Most gracious and most merciful God, we confess to you and to one another that time after time we have entered your presence with countless prayers but with hearts that have been closed to your grace. We have lifted our hands to you in praise, but our feet have still walked in the ways of evil. We have rehearsed your commandments but have refused to see your face in the needs of our neighbor. We pray, Lord, that you forgive our lack of faith and pardon our acts of injustice. Grant us the healing that comes from your presence and the cleansing of your all-powerful Word, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## Jeremiah 17:7-8

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.  
He is like a tree planted by water,  
that sends out its roots by the stream,  
and does not fear when heat comes,  
for its leaves remain green,  
and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
for it does not cease to bear fruit.

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

## Psalm 34 (Taste and See)

Shane & Shane

I sought the Lord, and He answered me  
And delivered me from every fear.  
Those who look on Him are radiant.  
They'll never be ashamed.  
They'll never be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard me  
And saved me from my enemies  
The Son of God surrounds His saints.  
He will deliver them.  
He will deliver them.

*Magnify the Lord with me.*  
*Come exalt His name together.*  
*Glorify the Lord with me.*  
*Come exalt His name forever.*

O Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Oh blessed is he who hides in Him.  
Oh fear the Lord, oh all you saints.  
He'll give you everything.  
He'll give you everything.    *Chorus*

Let us bless the Lord every day and night.  
Never ending praise, may our incense rise.    *Chorus*

O Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
He'll give you everything.  
He'll give you everything.

# PROFESSION OF FAITH

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
The only Son of God,  
Eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
True God from true God,  
Begotten, not made,  
Of one Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

He came down from heaven:

By the power of the Holy Spirit

He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was  
made man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead,

And His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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\*\*](https://centralchurchnyc.org/give).*

## OFFERTORY

### Come Jesus Come

Cece Winans · Cody Johnson

Sometimes I fall to my knees and pray.  
Come Jesus come, let today be the day.  
Sometimes I feel like I'm gonna break,  
But I'm holding on to a hope that won't fade.

*Come Jesus come.  
We've been waiting so long  
For the day You return to heal every hurt  
And right every wrong.  
We need You right now.  
Come and turn this around.  
Deep down I know this world isn't home.  
Come Jesus come.  
Come Jesus come.*

There'll be no war and there'll be no chains  
When Jesus comes, let today be the day.  
He'll come for the weak and the strong just the same,  
And all will believe in the power of His name.   *Chorus*

One day He'll come, and we'll stand face to face.  
Come and lay it all down, 'cause it might be today.  
The time is right now, there's no need to wait.  
Your past will be washed by rivers of grace.    *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

### 1 Kings 18:1-19

The passage can be found on pages 299-300 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>After many days the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth." <sup>2</sup>So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria. <sup>3</sup>And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly, <sup>4</sup>and when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.) <sup>5</sup>And Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys. Perhaps we may find grass and save the horses and mules alive, and not lose some of the animals." <sup>6</sup>So they divided the land between them to pass through it. Ahab went in one direction by himself, and Obadiah went in another direction by himself.

<sup>7</sup>And as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him. And Obadiah recognized him and fell on his face and said, “Is it you, my lord Elijah?” <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, “It is I. Go, tell your lord, ‘Behold, Elijah is here.’” <sup>9</sup>And he said, “How have I sinned, that you would give your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? <sup>10</sup>As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to seek you. And when they would say, ‘He is not here,’ he would take an oath of the kingdom or nation, that they had not found you. <sup>11</sup>And now you say, ‘Go, tell your lord, Behold, Elijah is here.’” <sup>12</sup>And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth. <sup>13</sup>Has it not been told my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid a hundred men of the LORD’s prophets by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water? <sup>14</sup>And now you say, ‘Go, tell your lord, Behold, Elijah is here’; and he will kill me.” <sup>15</sup>And Elijah said, “As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today.” <sup>16</sup>So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him. And Ahab went to meet Elijah.

<sup>17</sup>When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?” <sup>18</sup>And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father’s house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. <sup>19</sup>Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

## SERMON

### ***Sent By God* | The Concealed Life and the Revealed Life**

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

## 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.

## 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. ☺*

## REQUEST FOR CARE

*If you have a financial or practical care need for which you'd like to request assistance from Central, our deacons are readily available to discuss that with you. Please email [care@centralchurchnyc.org](mailto:care@centralchurchnyc.org) and detail your situation so one of our deacons can contact you directly.*