



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

August 10, 2025

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“If I could give you information of my life it would be to show how a woman of very ordinary ability has been led by God in strange and unaccustomed paths to do in His service what He has done in her. And if I could tell you all, you would see how God has done all, and I nothing. I have worked hard, very hard, that is all; and I have never refused God anything.”

—FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose never-failing providence governs all things in heaven and earth: we humbly ask you to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us whatever may be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

PSALM: Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Marta Bagratuni

Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

Henry Francis Lyte · John Goss

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor
To His people in distress.
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 40

LEADER Do you not know? Have you not heard

PEOPLE **The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

LEADER He will not grow tired or weary,

PEOPLE **And his understanding no one can fathom.**

LEADER He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

PEOPLE **Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;**

LEADER But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

PEOPLE **They will soar on wings like eagles;**

LEADER They will run and not grow weary,

PEOPLE **They will walk and not be faint.**

HYMN

This is My Father's World

Franklin Sheppard

This is my Father's world,
And to my list'ning ears,
All nature sings and 'round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world,
I rest me in the thought,
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand, the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white
Declare their Master's praise.
This is my Father's world,
He shines in all that's fair,
In the rustling grass, I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me ev'rywhere.

This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget,
That, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world,
The battle is not done.
Jesus, Who died, shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heaven be one.

*I have a Father; He is my Father.
He reigns in power and in love!
I have a Father, my glorious Father,
Creator, Master, King, my God!*

This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget,
That, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.

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

Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Psalm 103:11-13

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear 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

Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)

Chris Tomlin

You hear me when I call.
You are my morning song.
Though darkness fills the night,
It cannot hide the light.
Whom shall I fear?

You crush the enemy
Underneath my feet.
You are my sword and shield,
Though troubles linger still.
Whom shall I fear?

*I know who goes before me.
I know who stands behind.
The God of angel armies
Is always by my side.
The one who reigns forever,
He is a friend of mine.
The God of angel armies
Is always by my side.*

My strength is in your name,
For you alone can save.
You will deliver me.
Yours is the victory.
Whom shall I fear? *Chorus*

And nothing formed against me shall stand.
You hold the whole world in your hands.
I'm holding on to your promises.
You are faithful. You are faithful. *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.

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

You've Already Won

Brian Fowler · Shane Barnard

There's peace that outlasts darkness,
Hope that's in the blood.
There's future grace that's mine today
That Jesus Christ has won.
So I can face tomorrow,
For tomorrow's in your hands.
All I need you will provide
Just like you always have.

I'm fighting a battle
That you've already won.
No matter what comes my way,
I will overcome.
I don't know what your doing,
But I know what you've done.
I'm fighting a battle
That you've already won

There's mercy in the waiting,
Manna for today.
And when it's gone I know you're not;
You are my hope and stay.
When the sea is raging,
Your Spirit is my help.
He'll fix my eyes on Jesus Christ,
And I'll say that is well.
Oh, I know that it is well!

I know how the story ends.
We will be with you again.
You're my Savior, my defense.
No more fear in life or death.
I know how this story ends.

THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth LM

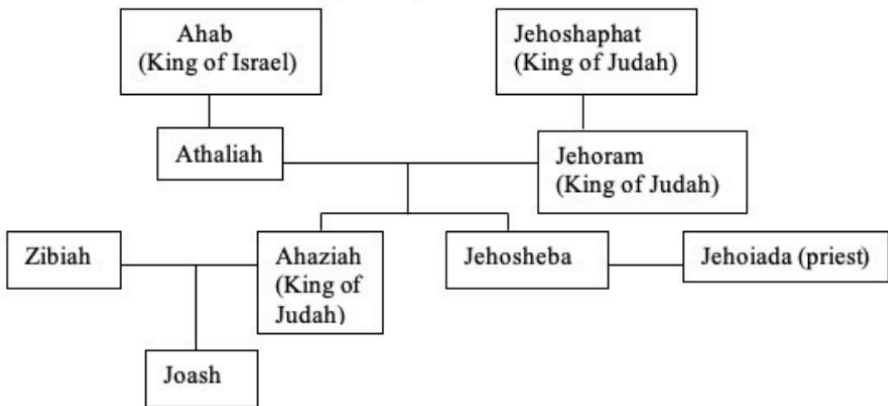
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Kings 11:1-3

The passage can be found on pages 317 of the pew Bible.

¹Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family. ²But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death. ³And he remained with her six years, hidden in the house of the LORD, while Athaliah reigned over the land.”



SERMON

***Sent By God* | The Woman Who Saved Christmas**

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

This Is Our God

Reuben Morgan

Your grace is enough, more than I need;
At Your word I will believe.
I wait for You, draw near again;
Let your spirit make me new.

And I will fall at Your feet,
I will fall at Your feet,
And I will worship You here.

Your presence in me, Jesus light the way
By the power of Your word.
I am restored, I am redeemed;
By Your spirit I am free.

And I will fall at Your feet,
I will fall at Your feet,
And I will worship You here.

*Freely You gave it all for us,
Surrendered Your life upon that cross.
Great is the love poured out for all:
This is our God.*

*Lifted on high from death to life,
Forever our God is glorified.
Servant and King rescued the world:
This is our God.*

And I will fall at your feet
We sing I will fall at your feet
And I will worship you here. *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. ☺

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 and detail your situation so one of our deacons can contact you directly.