



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

August 17, 2025

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But 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.”

—ACTS 1:7-8

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we who cannot do anything that is good without you, may in your strength be able to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Doori Na

And Can It Be

Charles Wesley · Thomas Campbell

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain,
For me, who Him to death, pursued.
Amazing love! how can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

*Amazing love! how can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me. *Chorus*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. *Chorus*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold, I approach th' eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. *Chorus*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 2

LEADER It shall come to pass in the latter days
 That the mountain of the house of the LORD,

PEOPLE **Shall be established as the highest of the
 mountains,
 And shall be lifted up above the hills;**

LEADER And all the nations shall flow to it,
 And many peoples shall come, and say:

PEOPLE **“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the
 LORD,
 to the house of the God of Jacob,**

LEADER That he may teach us his ways,

PEOPLE **And that we may walk in his paths.”**

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 and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Luke 24:46-47

Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

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

The King of Love, My Shepherd Is

Jonathan Lindley · Adam Palmer · Stephanie Kulla

The King of Love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever. And He is mine forever!

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

*Never failing Ruler of my heart,
Everlasting Lover of my soul,
On the mountain high or in the valley low,
The King of Love my Shepherd is!
The King of Love my Shepherd is!*

Lost and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark veil I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me.
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me. *Chorus*

Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise
Within Your house forever. Within Your house forever!

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

Been So Good

Steven Furtick · Chandler Moore · Brandon Lake

I call You faithful
For the promises You've kept
And every need You've met.
Lord I'm so grateful
You were with me every step,
And I never will forget.

*When I think of how You've blessed me,
How Your hand has never let me go,
Never let me go.*

*You have been so good to me.
God I can't believe
How You love me.
What a friend You have been.*

I call You Savior
For the blood that washed me clean,
For the wrongs that You redeemed.
I know You're able;
My eyes don't have to see
One more reason to believe. *Chorus*

For every morning,
For every open door,
I call You faithful.
I just wanna thank You Lord.

For every mountain,
For every time You brought me through,
I call You faithful.
I just wanna thank You Lord.

For Your forgiveness,
For how You never turned away,
I call You faithful.
I just wanna thank You Lord.

For Your salvation
You paid the price I couldn't pay.
I call You faithful.
I just wanna thank You Lord.

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

Genesis 12:1-3

The passage can be found on pages 8-9 of the pew Bible.

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

SERMON

Sent By God | Witnesses of the One True God

Rev. Michael Davis

REV. MICHAEL DAVIS’S BIO

Michael Davis Sr. is the Assistant Stated Clerk and Chief Collaborative Officer of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, where he provides leadership for the denomination’s Gospel Priorities and facilitates key committees and initiatives. He also serves on the boards of Memphis City Seminary, McGowan Global Institute, and Service Over Self. Michael holds degrees in Finance and Divinity. He and his beautiful wife, Serena Davis, have three wonderful sons: Michael Jr., Elijah, and Titus. Michael enjoys spending time with his family!

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

Hosanna

Brooke Fraser

I see the King of glory,
Coming on the clouds with fire;
The whole earth shakes,
The whole earth shakes.

I see His love and mercy,
Washing over all our sin.
The people sing,
The people sing:

*Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!*

I see a generation,
Rising up to take their place,
With selfless faith,
With selfless faith.

I see a near revival,
Stirring as we pray and seek.
We're on our knees,
We're on our knees. *Chorus*

Heal my heart and make it clean;
Open up my eyes to the things unseen.
Show me how to love like You have loved me.

Break my heart for what breaks Yours;
Everything I am for Your kingdom's cause,
As I walk from earth into eternity. *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.