



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**August 31, 2025**

**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“I see,” she said at last, thoughtfully. “I see now. This garden is like the stable. It is far bigger inside than it was outside.”

“Of course, Daughter of Eve,” said the Faun. “The further up and the further in you go, the bigger everything gets. The inside is larger than the outside.”

“I see,” she said. “This is still Narnia, and more real and more beautiful than the Narnia down below, just as it was more real and more beautiful than the Narnia outside the stable door! I see . . . world within world, Narnia within Narnia. . .”

“Yes,” said Mr. Tumnus, “like an onion: except that as you continue to go in and in, each circle is larger than the last.”

—C.S. LEWIS, *THE LAST BATTLE*

“I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer.”

—JIM CARREY

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let your merciful ears, Lord God, be open to the prayers of your people; and so that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as will please you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

PSALM: Psalm 71:1-6

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Caroline Cassio*

## The Church's One Foundation

Isaac Watts · John Hatton

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 55

LEADER Come, everyone who thirsts,

**PEOPLE Come to the waters;**

LEADER And he who has no money,

**PEOPLE Come, buy and eat!**

LEADER Come, buy wine and milk

**PEOPLE Without money and without price.**

LEADER Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

**PEOPLE And your labor for that which does not satisfy?**

LEADER Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,

**PEOPLE And delight yourselves in rich food.**

LEADER Incline your ear, and come to me;

**PEOPLE Hear, that your soul may live.**

# HYMN

## I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts

I sing the mighty power of God,  
That made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad,  
And built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
The sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at His command,  
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
That filled the earth with food.  
He formed the creatures with His Word,  
And then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how Your wonders are displayed,  
Where'er I turn my eye,  
If I survey the ground I tread,  
Or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below,  
But makes Your glories known,  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
By order from Your throne;  
While all that borrows life from You  
Is ever in Your care;  
And everywhere that man can be,  
You, God, are present there.

## **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**

Lord, though you should guide us, we inform ourselves; though you should rule us, we control ourselves; though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. 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. Now heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences 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 Timothy 2:5-6

There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and humankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.

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

## Speak, O Lord

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail—  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

# 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

### Way Maker

Osinachi Okoro

You are here, moving in our midst.  
I worship You.  
I worship You.  
You are here, working in this place.  
I worship You.  
I worship You.

*You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper,  
Light in the darkness. My God,  
That is who You are.  
You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper,  
Light in the darkness. My God,  
That is who You are.*

You are here, touching every heart.

I worship You.

I worship You.

You are here, healing every heart.

I worship You.

I worship You.

You are here, turning lives around.

I worship You.

I worship You.

You are here, mending every heart.

I worship You.

I worship You. *Chorus*

Even when I don't see it, You're working.

Even when I don't feel it, You're working.

You never stop, You never stop working.

You never stop, You never stop working. *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

## Mark 6:30-44

The passage can be found on pages 841-842 of the pew Bible.

<sup>30</sup>The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup>And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup>And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. <sup>36</sup>Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” <sup>37</sup>But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” <sup>39</sup>Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. <sup>41</sup>And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied. <sup>43</sup>And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup>And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

## SERMON

### *Sent By God | A Meal of Mission*

Rev. Luke Miedema

Rev. Miedema's bio can be found on page 17 of the bulletin.

# 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

## The Power of the Cross

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend · Arr. Dan Galbraith

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day,  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This, the pow'r of the cross.  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow. *Chorus*

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life,  
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry. *Chorus*

Oh, to see my name written in Your wounds,  
For through Your suffering, I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the pow'r of the cross.  
Son of God slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

## 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.*

## CALL FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

*As we define and expand our emergency protocol at Central, we hope to intentionally connect with medical professionals in our congregation who could provide on-site guidance and assistance in the event of an emergency during one of our services. If you are a doctor, nurse, EMT, or other trained medical professional who regularly attends service, please email Twaambo Moyo at [tmoyo@centralchurchnyc.org](mailto:tmoyo@centralchurchnyc.org) so we can build out our list and communicate with you accordingly.*

## REV. LUKE MIEDEMA'S BIO

*ALuke Miedema is the pastor at Grace Church of the Roaring Fork Valley in Basalt, CO. He was previously the campus minister for Reformed University Fellowship at Northwestern University. Luke is married to Janet and they have four children: Hudson, Sammy, Annie, and Liza. The whole family enjoys playing in the mountains pretty much any way they can — but especially skiing!*