



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**September 7, 2025**

**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Nobody escapes being wounded. We are all wounded people, whether physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. The main question is not 'How can we hide our wounds?' so we don't have to be embarrassed but 'How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?' When our wounds cease to be a source of shame and become a source of healing, we have become wounded healers.”

—HENRI NOUWEN

## 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

*Ben Sellick*

## O Worship the King

Robert Grant · William Gardiner

O worship the King, all glorious above,  
And gratefully sing His wonderful love.  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, and sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light and canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Love lifted me, Love lifted me.  
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.  
Love lifted me, Love lifted me.  
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.

O Measureless Might, Ineffable Love,  
While angels delight to worship above.  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 73

LEADER        Nevertheless, I am continually with you;

PEOPLE        **You hold my right hand.**

LEADER        You guide me with your counsel,

PEOPLE        **And afterward you will receive me to glory.**

LEADER        Whom have I in heaven but you?

PEOPLE        **And there is nothing on earth that I desire  
besides you.**

LEADER        My flesh and my heart may fail,

PEOPLE        **But God is the strength of my heart and my  
portion forever.**

# HYMN

## All Creatures of Our God and King

St. Francis of Assisi · David Crowder · Arr. Dan Galbraith

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice, and with us sing;  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam.  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God, and on Him cast your care!  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness;  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## **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**

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## Psalm 103

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

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

## Living Hope

Phil Wickham

How great the chasm that lay between us,  
How high the mountain I could not climb.  
In desperation, I turned to Heaven,  
And spoke Your Name into the night.  
Then through the darkness, Your lovingkindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul.  
The work is finished, the end is written:  
Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of Ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame.  
The Cross has spoken, I am forgiven;  
The King of Kings calls me His Own.  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever,  
Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.

*Hallelujah! Praise the One Who set me free!*  
*Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me!*  
*You have broken every chain;*  
*There's salvation in Your Name:*  
*Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.*



Then came the morning that sealed the promise:  
Your buried body began to breathe.  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared, "The grave has no claim on Me!"  
Then came the morning that sealed the promise:  
Your buried body began to breathe.  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared, "The grave has no claim on Me!"  
Jesus, Yours is the victory. *Chorus*

## 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](https://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 What May

Jeffrey Thomas Pardo · Darren Mulligan

Sometimes sorrow is the door to peace.  
Sometimes heartache is the gift I need.  
You're faithful, faithful  
In all things.

*In every high, in every low,  
On mountaintops, down broken roads,  
You're still my rock; my hope remains.  
I'll rest in the arms of Jesus,  
Come what may,  
Come what may.*

There is deep joy that You give to me.  
Where hurt meets the healing is a holy thing.  
I see goodness, Your goodness  
In all things. *Chorus*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
The Lord is my shepherd, leads me to still waters,  
And He restores my soul. *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

### 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

The passage can be found on page 964 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup>For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup>If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. <sup>7</sup>Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

<sup>8</sup>For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup>Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup>He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. <sup>11</sup>You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

## SERMON

***Power in Weakness* | The Wounded Healer**  
Rev. Jason Harris

# 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

## O Praise the Name

Dean Usher · Marty Sampson · Benjamin Hastings

I cast my mind to Calvary,  
Where Jesus bled and died for me.  
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet.  
My Savior on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears,  
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone,  
Messiah still and all alone.

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God!  
O praise His Name forever more!  
For endless days we will sing Your praise,  
O Lord, O Lord our God!*

Then on the third at break of dawn,  
The Son of Heaven rose again.  
O trampled death where is your sting?  
The angels roar for Christ the King! *Chorus*

He shall return in robes of white,  
The blazing sun shall pierce the night.  
And I will rise among the saints,  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face. *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](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.*