



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

September 21, 2025

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The vulnerability that leads to flourishing requires risk, which is the possibility of loss—the chance that when we act, we will lose something we value. Risk, like life, is always about probabilities, never about certainties. Risk, like life, is always about probabilities, never about certainties. To risk is to open ourselves up to the chance that something will go wrong, that something will be taken from us—without knowing for sure whether that loss will come to pass or not.”

—ANDY CROUCH

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, grant that we may grow in faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promised, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

PSALM: Psalm 79:1-9

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Caroline Cassio

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Rowland H. Prichard · Arr. Robert Harkness

I will sing of my Redeemer
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered
From the curse to set me free.

*Sing, oh sing, of my Redeemer,
With His blood, He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt, and made me free.*

I will tell the wondrous story
How my lost estate to save,
In His boundless love and mercy
He the ransom freely gave. *Chorus*

I will praise my dear Redeemer;
His triumphant power I'll tell,
How the victory He giveth
Over sin, and death, and hell. *Chorus*

I will sing of my Redeemer
And His heav'nly love for me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God, with Him to be. *Chorus*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103

LEADER Bless the LORD, O my soul,
 and all that is within me,

PEOPLE Bless his holy name!

LEADER Bless the LORD, O my soul,

PEOPLE And forget not all his benefits,

LEADER Who forgives all your iniquity,

PEOPLE Who heals all your diseases,

LEADER Who redeems your life from the pit,

PEOPLE Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

LEADER Who satisfies you with good

PEOPLE So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

HYMN

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Matt Redman

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.

Worship His Holy Name.

Sing like never before, O my soul.

I'll worship Your Holy Name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,

It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,

Let me be singing when the evening comes. *Chorus*

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger,

Your Name is great, and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Chorus*

And on that day when my strength is failing

The end is near, and my time has come

Still my soul will sing your praise unending:

Ten thousand years and then forevermore! *Chorus*

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

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, your face is hidden from us by our sins, and we forget your mercy in the blindness of our hearts. Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires. With lowliness and meekness may we draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for 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

Build My Life

Matthew Redman / Kirby Kaple / Brett Younker / Joseph Barrett / Karl Martin

Worthy of every song we could ever sing,
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring,
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for You.

Jesus, the Name above every other name.
Jesus, the only One who could ever save.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for You.

*Holy, there is no one like You.
There is none beside You,
Open up my eyes in wonder.
Show me who You are and fill me
With Your heart and lead me
In Your love to those around me.*

Jesus, the Name above every other name.
Jesus, the only One who could ever save.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for You. *Chorus*

I will build my life upon Your love.
It is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in You alone,
And I will not be shaken. *Chorus*

Worthy of every song we could ever sing,
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring,
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for You.

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

The Proof of Your Love

Ben Glover · Jonathan Lee · Mia Fieldes · Fred Williams · Joel Smallbone · Luke Smallbone

If I sing but don't have love,
I waste my breath with every song.
I bring an empty voice, a hollow noise.
If I speak with a silver tongue,
Convince a crowd but don't have love,
I leave a bitter taste with every word I say.

*So let my life be the proof,
The proof of Your love.
Let my love look like You and what You're made of.
How You lived, how You died,
Love is sacrifice.
So let my life be the proof,
The proof of Your love.*

If I give to a needy soul
But don't have love, then who is poor?
It seems all the poverty is found in me. *Chorus*

When it's all said and done,
When we sing our final song,
Only love remains.
Only love remains. *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 2:5-17

The passage can be found on pages 964-965 of the pew Bible.

¹⁵Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. ⁶For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, ⁷so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. ¹⁰Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

¹²When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, ¹³my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

SERMON

***Power in Weakness* | What Message Are You Sending?**

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

Goodness of God

CeCe Winans · Ben Fielding · Brian Johnson · Edward Martin Cash · Jason Ingram · Jenn Johnson

I love You, Lord,
For Your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

*'Cause all my life You have been faithful,
And all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

I love Your voice.
You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, You are close like no other.
I've known You as a Father.
I've known You as a Friend.
And I have lived in the goodness of God. *Chorus*

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I surrender now.
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. *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.