



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**September 28, 2025**

**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Beholding the glory of the Lord is to be the unchanging activity of the Christian life from beginning to end. This results in our transformation from glory to glory. At the beginning, the believer ‘sees’ the glory with his mind as he understands the gospel and turns to the Lord. At the end, he sees that glory with his eyes as, face to face, he sees the heavenly Lord, enveloped in glory. In between the beginning and ending he ‘beholds’ the glory through the pastoral ministry of the gospel in the church.”

—PAUL BARNETT

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Keep your Church, Lord God, with your perpetual mercy, and because the frailty of man without you cannot but fall, keep us always under your protection, and lead us to everything that makes for our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

PSALM: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Ben Sellick*

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm William M. Runyan

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not,  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.*  
*Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.   *Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!   *Chorus*

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 27

LEADER        The LORD is my light and my salvation;

PEOPLE        **Whom shall I fear?**

LEADER        The LORD is the stronghold of my life;

PEOPLE        **Of whom shall I be afraid?**

LEADER        One thing have I asked of the LORD,

PEOPLE        **That will I seek after:**

LEADER        That I may dwell in the house of the LORD

PEOPLE        **All the days of my life,**

LEADER        To gaze upon the beauty of the LORD

PEOPLE        **And to inquire in his temple.**

LEADER        I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of  
the LORD

PEOPLE        **In the land of the living!**

LEADER        Wait for the LORD;  
Be strong, and let your heart take courage;

PEOPLE        **Wait for the LORD!**

# HYMN

## The Church's One Foundation

Samuel J. Stone · Samuel S. Wesley

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.

## **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**

Father, we have sinned times without number, and have been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in our daily lives. Our sins and shortcomings present us with a long list of accusations, but, by your grace, they will not stand against us, for they all have been laid on Christ, our sacrifice and our advocate. Deliver us from every evil habit, every interest in former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, everything that prevents us from taking our deepest delight in you. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## Jeremiah 31

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant...This is the covenant that I will make...I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

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

## In Christ Alone

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!  
This Gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His and He is mine;  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.



On Christ the solid Rock I stand.  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'Til He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

# 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 - 10 AND 11:30 AM

*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).*

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION - 5 PM

Hansol Kang  
Twaambo Moyo

### Ordination Vows

### Congregational Vow

### Prayer of Ordination

### Declaration of Ordination

## 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

### You Bless Me (Thank You)

We The Kingdom · Dwan Hill

Every time I think of Your kindness.  
Every time I'm singing Your Name, Jesus.  
Never thought my life could look like this.  
I give thanks every day  
For Your amazing grace.

*God, I'm in love with who You are.  
You are the bright and morning star.  
You fill me with joy inside my heart.  
You bless me, you bless me.*

When I look at how far You brought me,  
Nothing I could do to deserve.  
When I was a sinner You called me.  
I'm alive by Your side  
Because You loved me first.

*When everything seems impossible,  
You are my peace through every storm.  
You are the God of miracles.  
You bless me, you bless me.*

Thank You, hallelujah  
For all that you have done.

## 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 3:1-18

The passage can be found on page 965 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? <sup>2</sup>You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. <sup>3</sup>And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

<sup>4</sup>Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. <sup>5</sup>Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything

as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, <sup>6</sup>who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

<sup>7</sup>Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, <sup>8</sup>will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? <sup>9</sup>For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. <sup>10</sup>Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. <sup>11</sup>For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

<sup>12</sup>Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup>not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.

<sup>14</sup>But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup>Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup>But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

## SERMON

### ***Power in Weakness* | The Genuine Article**

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 near each station. Your communion server can point you to them if desired.*



# COMMUNION HYMN

## How Great Is Our God

Chris Tomlin · Jesse Reeves · Ed Cash

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty,  
Let all the earth rejoice—all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

*How great is our God, sing with me,  
How great is our God, and all will see.  
How great—how great is our God.*

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands,  
Beginning and the End—Beginning and the End.  
The Godhead, Three in One, Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb—the Lion and the Lamb.    *Chorus*

Name above all names, worthy of all praise,  
My heart will sing, how great is our God.  
Name above all names, worthy of all praise,  
My heart will sing, how great is our God.    *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.*