



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PREPARATION

**October 5, 2025**

**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Precisely because of the vital importance of the message, the messenger must be dispensable. It’s like putting treasure into clay pots or earthenware jars; they are fragile, breakable, disposable, but the treasure is what matters. If it were otherwise, the jars might regard themselves as important.”

—N.T. WRIGHT

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, let your continual pity cleanse and defend your church, and because it cannot continue in safety without your aid, keep it evermore by your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Lamentations 1:1-6

PSALM: Psalm 137

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Marta Bagratuni*

### All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Edward Perronet · Oliver Holden

All Hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
Ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng,  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 116

LEADER For You have rescued my soul from death,

PEOPLE **My eyes from tears,  
And my feet from stumbling.**

LEADER I shall walk before the LORD

PEOPLE **In the land of the living.**

LEADER I believed, and so I spoke,

PEOPLE **“I am greatly troubled.”**

LEADER What shall I repay to the LORD

PEOPLE **For all His benefits to me?**

LEADER I will lift up the cup of salvation,

PEOPLE **And call upon the name of the LORD.**

LEADER I will pay my vows to the LORD;

PEOPLE **May it be in the presence of all His people!**

# HYMN

## How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Stuart Townend · Bruce Greer

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss,  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One,  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life,  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom,  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart:  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

## **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

## 1 John 2:1-2

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

## King of Kings

Jason Ingram · Brooke Ligertwood · Scott Ligertwood

In the darkness we were waiting,  
Without hope, without light,  
Till from heaven You came running,  
There was mercy in Your eyes.  
To fulfill the law and prophets,  
To a virgin came the Word,  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father. Praise the Son.  
Praise the Spirit, three in one.  
God of glory, majesty.  
Praise forever to the King of Kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost,  
To redeem the whole creation,  
You did not despise the cross.  
For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side.  
Knowing this was our salvation,  
Jesus for our sake You died. *Chorus*

And the morning that You rose,  
All of heaven held its breath,  
Till that stone was moved for good,  
For the Lamb had conquered death.  
And the dead rose from their tombs,  
And the angels stood in awe,  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored.



And the Church of Christ was born,  
Then the Spirit lit the flame.  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.  
By His blood and in His Name,  
In His freedom I am free,  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me.    *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

*Featuring the Central Youth Choir at the 10 and 11:30 a.m. services*

## The Father's House

Cory Asbury · Ethan Hulse · Benjamin Hastings

Sometimes on this journey I get lost in my mistakes.  
What looks to me like weakness is a canvas for Your strength.  
My story isn't over; my story's just begun.  
Failure won't define me, 'cause that's what my Father does.  
Failure won't define me, 'cause that's what my Father does.

*Oh, lay your burdens down.  
Oh, here in the Father's house,  
Check your shame at the door.  
It ain't welcome anymore.  
Oh, you're in the Father's house.*

Arrival's not the endgame; the journey's where You are.  
You never wanted perfect; You just wanted my heart.  
And the story isn't over if the story isn't good.  
Failure's never final when the Father's in the room.  
Failure's never final when the Father's in the room. *Chorus*

Prodigals come home, the helpless find hope.  
Love is on the move when the Father's in the room.  
Prison doors fling wide, the dead come to life.  
Love is on the move when the Father's in the room.

Miracles take place, the cynical find faith.  
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room.  
Jericho walls are quakin', strongholds now are shakin'.  
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room.  
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room. *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 4:1-15

The passage can be found on pages 965-966 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup>Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup>knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

## SERMON

### ***Power in Weakness* | Treasure in Jars of Clay**

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

### Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)

Jonas Myrin · Joel Timothy Houston

All these pieces, broken and scattered,  
In mercy gathered, mended and whole,  
Empty handed but not forsaken,  
I've been set free; I've been set free.

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now I am found,  
Was blind but now I see.  
Oh I can see You now.  
Oh I can see the love in Your eyes.  
Laying Yourself down,  
Raising up the broken to life.*

You take our failure; You take our weakness.  
You set Your treasure in jars of clay.  
So take this heart, Lord, I'll be Your vessel.  
The world to see, Your life in 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](mailto:care@centralchurchnyc.org) and detail your situation so one of our deacons can contact you directly.*