



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

October 12, 2025

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

—C.S. LEWIS

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, we pray that your grace may always uphold and encourage us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

PSALM: Psalm 66:1-12

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Caroline Cassio

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Isaac Watts · John Hatton

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
'Til moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen!

(Added chorus at the 5 p.m. service)

*To our King be highest praise
Rising through eternal days
Just and faithful He shall reign
Jesus shall reign!*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 16

LEADER I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;

PEOPLE **In the night also my heart instructs me.**

LEADER I have set the LORD always before me;

PEOPLE **Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

LEADER Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

PEOPLE **My flesh also dwells secure.**

LEADER For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

PEOPLE **Or let your holy one see corruption.**

LEADER You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;

PEOPLE **At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

HYMN

And Can It Be

Charles Wesley · Thomas Campbell

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain,
For me, who Him to death, pursued.
Amazing love! how can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

*Amazing love! how can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me. *Chorus*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. *Chorus*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold, I approach th' eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. *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

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

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.*

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

Hymn of Heaven

Phil Wickham

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven,
Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets,
To look upon the one who bled to save me
And walk with Him for all eternity.

*There will be a day when all will bow before Him.
There will be a day when death will be no more.
Standing face to face with He who died and rose again,
Holy, holy is the Lord!*

Every prayer we prayed in desperation.
The songs of faith we sang through doubt and fear.
In the end we'll see that it was worth it,
When He returns to wipe away our tears. *Chorus*

On that day we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith.
With one voice a thousand generations
Sing worthy is the Lamb who was slain.

(Forever He shall reign!)

*So let it be today we shout the hymn of Heaven.
With angels and the Saints, we raise a mighty roar.
Glory to our God who gave us life beyond the grave
Holy, holy is the Lord!*

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 4:16-5:10

The passage can be found on page 966 of the pew Bible.

4 ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

5 ¹For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

SERMON

***Power in Weakness* | Prepared by God for Something Greater**

Rev. Dr. Jay Harvey - *10 and 11:30 a.m. services*

Robert Cone - *5 p.m. service*

REV. DR. JAY HARVEY'S BIO

Rev. Dr. Jay Harvey is the church planting pastor at City On A Hill NYC, a new congregation in midtown. He has over two decades of ministry experience as a pastor, seminary professor, and developer of leaders. Jay and his wife, Melody, live in Manhattan with two college-aged daughters and their Havanese, Leo.

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

Resurrecting

Christopher Brown · Wade Joye · Steven Furtick Matthews · Thabo Ntele

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now.
The Savior knelt to wash our feet,
Now at His feet we bow.

The One who wore our sin and shame,
Now robed in majesty;
The radiance of perfect love
Now shines for all to see.

*Your Name, Your Name is victory!
All praise, will rise to Christ, our King!*

The fear that held us now gives way
To Him who is our peace.
His final breath upon the cross
Is now alive in me. *Chorus*

By Your spirit I will rise from the ashes of defeat;
The resurrected King, is resurrecting me!
In Your name I come alive to declare Your victory;
The resurrected King, is resurrecting me!

The tomb where soldiers watched in vain
Was borrowed for three days.
His body there would not remain:
Our God has robbed the grave!
Our God has robbed the grave! *Chorus*

THE LORD'S PRAYER - 10 AND 11:30 A.M. SERVICES

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER - 5 P.M. SERVICE

Father, let Your Kingdom come, Father, let Your will be done,
On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart.

Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us, forgive us.
As we forgive the ones who sinned against us, forgive them.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us
From the evil one, Let Your kingdom come.

It's Yours, it's Yours, all Yours, all Yours.
The kingdom, the power, the glory are Yours.
It's Yours, it's Yours, all Yours, all Yours.
Forever and ever the kingdom is Yours.

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.