



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

October 26, 2025

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The glory of the gospel is that when the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it.”

—DAVID MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord God, without you we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct
and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Joel 2:23-32

PSALM: Psalm 65

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Doori Na

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Dawn Rogers · Eric Wyse

Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer, and Friend,
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace,
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way.
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

*You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore,
You give the healing and grace,
Our hearts always hunger for.
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

Almighty, infinite Father,
Faithfully loving Your own.
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne.
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. *Chorus*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 49

LEADER Thus says the LORD:
 “In a time of favor I have answered you;

PEOPLE **In a day of salvation I have helped you;**

LEADER I will keep you and give you

PEOPLE **As a covenant to the people,**

LEADER To establish the land,

PEOPLE **To apportion the desolate heritages.”**

LEADER Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

PEOPLE **Break forth, O mountains, into singing!**

LEADER For the LORD has comforted his people

PEOPLE **And will have compassion on his afflicted.**

HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley · Rowland Hugh Prichard

Love Divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav'n, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all Compassion, pure, unbounded Love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, 'til in Heav'n we take our place,
'Til we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

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

Come Unto Jesus

Jordan Kauflin · Keith Getty · Kristyn Getty · Laura Story

Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary.
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here bring your wounded heart, broken and needy.
Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.

Joy of the comfortless, light for the straying,
Hope of the penitent, peace in our strife.
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,
“My yoke is easy, My burden is light.”

*Come unto Jesus, come unto Jesus.
Lay down your burdens, He is enough.
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.*

Come, taste the Bread of Life broken for sinners.
Drink from the cup of His promise made sure.
Feast at His table as sons and as daughters.
Grace overflowing is yours evermore. *Chorus*

Come now and follow Him, this life forsaking.
All that was gained count as nothing but loss.
Trade all this world for His kingdom unfading.
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross.
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross.
Life everlasting He offers to us. *Chorus*

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 10 A.M. SERVICE

Samuel Riley Sells IV

Son of Matthew and Chelsea Sells

Baptismal Vows

- 1 Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2 Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for Samuel's salvation, as you do for your own?
- 3 Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the truths of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring Samuel up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Matthew and Chelsea in the Christian nurture of their child?

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 11:30 A.M. SERVICE

Arthur Lockwood Mansfield

Son of Jacob and Lanie Mansfield

Baptismal Vows

- 1 Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2 Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for Arthur's salvation, as you do for your own?
- 3 Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the truths of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring Arthur up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Jacob and Lanie in the Christian nurture of their child?

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 - 5 P.M. SERVICE

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

Come, Let Us Return to the Lord

Matt Boswell · Michael Cochren · Matt Papa

All we have, like sheep, gone astray.
Each of us has turned our own way.
But God laid all our wrongs, our sins
Upon the Sinless One, His only Son.

*Come, let us return to the Lord.
Come, now all His mercies remember.
How wide His love that waits to welcome us.
Oh, come, let us return to the Lord.*

All who feel the sting of your sin,
Come and lift your eyes once again.
How great a price was paid to save the souls of us
Who stray, yet still we stray. *Chorus*

God, we need Your merciful hand.
Heal us from our pride, heal our land.
As we turn from our ways, oh turn our hearts to You
In praise, endless praise. *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 6:1-16

The passage can be found on pages 966-967 of the pew Bible.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not

killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹²You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. ¹³In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

¹⁴Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them.
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.”

SERMON

***Power in Weakness* | The Grace-Driven Life**

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 Can I Keep from Singing

Chris Tomlin

There is an endless song,
Echoes in my soul.
I hear the music ring.

And though the storms may come,
I am holding on
To the rock I cling.

*How can I keep from singing Your praise?
How can I ever say enough?
How amazing is Your love?
How can I keep from shouting Your name?
I know I am loved by the King,
And it makes my heart want to sing.*

I will lift my eyes
In the darkest night,
For I know my Savior lives.

And I will walk with You,
Knowing You'll see me through
And sing the songs You give. *Chorus*

I can sing in the troubled times,
Sing when I win.
I can sing when I lose my step
And fall down again.
I can sing 'cause You pick me up,
Sing 'cause You're there.

I can sing 'cause You hear me, Lord
When I call to You in prayer.
I can sing with my last breath.
Sing for I know
That I'll sing with the angels
And the saints around the throne. *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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Year-to-Date Giving: \$2,930,000

2025 Projected Expenses: \$4,360,000

2025 Remaining Need: \$1,430,000