



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

November 9, 2025

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Under an impulse which came from God himself, the Macedonians gave money with almost reckless generosity. They were like the congregation whose pastor had to warn them that they were giving far too much. They were desperately poor, and had suffered serious persecution; these two things may have gone together, since the persecution may have included loss of jobs and income for some. But such was their devotion to God, to the Lord Jesus, to Paul himself, and to the work of the gospel and of church unity, that they found it in their hearts to give not only according to their means but way beyond. This, Paul declares, can only be a work of grace.”

—N. T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Haggai 2:1-2:9

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

GOSPEL: Luke 20:27-38

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude in G Major, BWV 541, by J. S. Bach

Dr. Nathan Davy

Dr. Davy's bio can be found on page 21 of the bulletin.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Henry van Duke · Ludwig van Beethoven

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Leading us with mercy's hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward,
In the triumph song of life.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 43

LEADER Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

PEOPLE **I have called you by name, you are mine.**

LEADER When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

PEOPLE **And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;**

LEADER When you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

PEOPLE **And the flame shall not consume you.**

LEADER For I am the LORD your God,

PEOPLE **The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;**

LEADER Because you are precious in my eyes,

PEOPLE **And honored, and I love you.**

HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander · Catherine Winkworth

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!
O my soul praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth.
Shelters thee under His wings, yea so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If in His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly, for aye, we adore Him.

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

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us so that we love and serve you in all that we do. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 6:10-11

For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

All Creatures of our God and King

St. Francis of Assisi · David Crowder · Arr. Dan Galbraith

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice, and with us sing;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God, and on Him cast your care!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

James Timothy Pedrotty

Son of Timothy and Julie Pedrotty

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 James' 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 James up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Timothy and Julie 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 - 11:30 A.M. AND 5 P.M. SERVICES

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 - 10 AND 11:30 A.M. SERVICES

Locus Iste

Anton Bruckner

*Locus iste a Deo factus est,
inaestimabile sacramentum,
irreprehensibilis est.*

Translation:

This place was made by God,
a priceless sacrament;
it is without reproach.

OFFERTORY - 5 P.M. SERVICE

Everything's In Your Hands

Dee Wilson · Taylor Leonhardt · Jess Ray Langdon

This is the heart of living: Give and it will be given.
Everything's in your hands, Everything's in your hands, Lord.
This is the law of loving: Give and I'll want for nothing.
Everything's in your hands, Everything's in your hands, Lord.

I don't wanna hold on too tight
Even to the good things in my life.
What I put in your hands I can never lose,
'Cause everything Lord belongs to you.

I surrender all, surrender all, all to you.
I surrender all, surrender all, all to you.
I surrender all, surrender all, all to you.
I surrender all, surrender all, all to you.

This is the heart of living: Give and it will be given.
Everything's in your hands, Everything's in your hands, Lord.
Trust, I put my whole self in it; love like there is no limit.
Everything's in your hands, Everything's in your hands, Lord.

This is the heart of living: Give and it will be given.
Everything's in your hands, Everything's in your hands, Lord.
Sing till my heart remembers; Love is a long surrender.
Everything's in your hands, Everything's in your hands, Lord.
Everything's in your hands, Everything's in your hands, 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 8:1-12

The passage can be found on pages 967-968 of the pew Bible.

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity

on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. ¹¹So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. ¹²For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have

SERMON

Power in Weakness | Excelling in Grace

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

It Was Finished Upon That Cross

CityAlight

How I love the voice of Jesus
On the Cross of Calvary.
He declares his work is finished.
He has spoken this hope to me.

*Though the sun had ceased its shining—
Though the war appeared as lost,
Christ had triumphed over evil.
It was finished upon that Cross.*

Now the curse, it has been broken.
Jesus paid the price for me.
Full, the pardon he has offered.
Great, the welcome that I receive.

*Boldly I approach my Father—
Clothed in Jesus' righteousness
There is no more guilt to carry.
It was finished upon that Cross.*

Death was once my great opponent.
Fear once had a hold on me.
But the Son who died to save us,
Rose that we would be free indeed!

Yes! He rose that we would be free indeed!

*Free from every plan of darkness,
Free to live and free to love,
Death is dead and Christ is risen!
It was finished upon that Cross.*

*Onward to eternal glory
To my Saviour and my God,
I rejoice in Jesus' victory,
It was finished upon that Cross.*

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

2025 Projected Expenses: \$4,360,000

Year-to-Date Giving: \$3,125,000

2025 Remaining Need: \$1,235,000

DR. NATHAN DAVY'S BIO

Dr. Davy is the Organist and Associate Director of Music at Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. Previously he held the position of Assistant Organist at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the largest Roman Catholic church in North America. Dr. Davy received his M.M. and D.M.A. from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where he studied with internationally renowned organists David Higgs, Edoardo Bellotti, and Michel Bouvard. He was also awarded the Eastman School's prestigious Performer's Certificate and has been a prizewinner at various competitions throughout the United States. Dr. Davy lives in Dallas with his wife, Laura, and their five children.