



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

November 16, 2025

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“So when this loose behavior I throw off,
And pay the debt I never promised,
By how much better than my word I am,
By so much shall I falsify men’s hopes;
And like bright metal on a sullen ground,
My reformation, glittering o’er my fault,
Shall show more goodly and attract more eyes
Than that which hath no foil to set it off.
I’ll so offend, to make offence a skill,
Redeeming time when men think least I will.”

—WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, *HENRY IV, PART I*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Father in heaven, keep your household the church in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and may devoutly serve you in good works to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:17-25

PSALM: Psalm 98

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Ben Sellick

Holy, Holy, Holy

Reginald Heber · John B. Dykes

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Tho' the darkness hide Thee,
Tho' the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see.
Only Thou art holy- there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, in purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeremiah 9:23-24

LEADER Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast
in his wisdom,

PEOPLE **Let not the mighty man boast in his might,**

LEADER Let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let
him who boasts boast in this,

PEOPLE **That he understands and knows me,**

LEADER That I am the LORD who practices steadfast love,
justice, and righteousness in the earth.

PEOPLE **For in these things I delight, declares the
LORD.”**

HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Traditional Welsh Hymn · Walter C. Smith

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above,
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all.
Thy wisdom so boundless, Thy mercy so free,
Eternal Thy goodness for naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth 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

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our words spoken in haste and anger, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives transgression? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

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

Build My Life

Matthew James Redman · Kirby Kaple · Brett Steven Younker · Joseph Patrick Martin Barrett · Karl Felix Martin

Worthy of every song we could ever sing,
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring,
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for You.

Jesus, the Name above every other name.
Jesus, the only One who could ever save.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for You.

*Holy, there is no one like You.
There is none beside You,
Open up my eyes in wonder.
Show me who You are and fill me
With Your heart and lead me
In Your love to those around me.*

Jesus, the Name above every other name.
Jesus, the only One who could ever save.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for You. *Chorus*

I will build my life upon Your love.
It is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in You alone,
And I will not be shaken. *Chorus*

Worthy of every song we could ever sing,
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring,
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for You.

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

Robert Arthur Jones III

Son of Robert Jones Jr. and Caroline Jones

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

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Robert and Caroline 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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS - 11:30 A.M. SERVICE

Allie Albright, Carter Braswell, Ming Lee Chan, Eunji Choi, Natalie Christopoul, Joshua Creedon, Lindsey Guercio, Annabelle Jenkins, Brady Linebarger, Mary Linebarger, Christina Maxwell, Jackson Min, Iain Muir, Olivia Schmidt, Faith Sim, Thais Souza, Olga Statz, Stuart Sweeney, Edwin Wang, Luke Wilfong, Jean Hee Yu

Membership Vows

- 1 Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in God's sight and without hope for your salvation except through his sovereign mercy?
- 2 Do you believe in the Lord Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
- 3 Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
- 4 Do you promise to serve Christ and His church by supporting this congregation in its worship of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?
- 5 Do you promise to accept the spiritual guidance of the church, to walk in a spirit of Christian love with this congregation, and to seek those things that make for unity, purity and peace?

Congregational Vow

Will you, the members of this congregation and witnesses of these vows, acting on behalf of yourself and as representatives of the whole body of Christ, do everything within your power to encourage these new members to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

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

Bless God

Cody Carnes · Brooke Ligertwood · Brandon Lake

Blessed are those who run to Him,
Who place their hope and confidence in Jesus.
He won't forsake them.
Blessed are those who seek His face,
Who bend their knee and fix their gaze on Jesus.
They won't be shaken.

*Come on and praise the Lord with me.
Sing if you love His Name.
Come on and lift your voice with me.
He's worthy of all our praise. (1)*

Blessed are those who walk with Him,
Whose hearts are set on pilgrimage with Jesus.
They'll see His glory.
Blessed are those who die to live,
Whose joy it is to give it all for Jesus,
And for Him only.
Oh Jesus, all for Your glory. *Chorus 1*

*Come on and bring your offering.
Sing if you've known His grace.
Come on and lift up your holy hands.
He's worthy of all our praise. (2)*

Bless God in the sanctuary.
Bless God in the fields of plenty.
Bless God in the darkest valley.
Every chance I get, I'll bless Your Name.

Bless God when my hands are empty.
Bless God with a praise that costs me.
Bless God when nobody's watching.
Every chance I get, I'll bless Your Name.

Bless God when the weapon's forming.
Bless God when the walls are falling.
Bless God 'cause He goes before me.
Every chance I get, I'll bless Your Name.

Bless God for He holds the victory.
Bless God for He's always with me.
Bless God for He's always worthy.
Every chance I get, I'll bless Your Name. *Chorus 1 & 2*

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 11:16-33

The passage can be found on pages 969-970 of the pew Bible.

¹⁶I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. ¹⁷What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not as the Lord would but as a fool. ¹⁸Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. ¹⁹For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! ²⁰For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. ²¹To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. ²³Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. ²⁴Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty

lashes less one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³²At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, ³³but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

SERMON

Power in Weakness | Playing the Fool

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

Goodness of God

CeCe Winans · Ben Fielding · Brian Johnson · Edward Martin Cash · Jason Ingram · Jenn Johnson

I love You, Lord,
For Your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

*'Cause all my life You have been faithful,
And all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

I love Your voice.
You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, You are close like no other.
I've known You as a Father.
I've known You as a Friend.
And I have lived in the goodness of God. *Chorus*

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I surrender now.
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after 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 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: \$3,162,000

2025 Remaining Need: \$1,198,000