



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PREPARATION

**December 7, 2025**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“God’s call to Abram contained a double promise: that He would bless Abram, and that He would make him a blessing. Both sides of the promise were related to God’s pledge to make of Abram’s seed a great nation. God would make Abram’s name great by the fact that He would raise up a great people of his descendants. They would share the blessing that God gave to Abram, and Abram would be blessed by God’s blessing to them.”

—EDMUND CLOWNEY

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, encouraged and supported by your holy Word, we may embrace and always hold fast the joyful hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Marta Bagratuni*

### Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (Traditional)

Charles Wesley · Rowland H. Prichard

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Jesus! What a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;  
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, He, my Savior, makes me whole.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah! What a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.

# HYMN

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Traditional English

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel.  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

# CALL TO WORSHIP

## Isaiah 11

LEADER        There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of  
                     Jesse,  
                     and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

PEOPLE        **And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
                     the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
                     the Spirit of counsel and might,  
                     the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the  
                     LORD.**

LEADER        And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
                     He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
                     or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

PEOPLE        **But with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
                     and decide with equity for the meek of the  
                     earth.**

# HYMN

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel (continued)

Traditional English

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with Heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

## **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**

Heavenly Father, you created us to be complete and whole people. But we have become fragmented and broken by sin. We have sinned against you and against one another, in thought, word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died and rose for us, forgive us and renew us. Let your light shine through our cracks and scars so that we might bring light to the world, showing that in you we are made whole. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**



# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## Titus 2:13-14

We are waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**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

## Joy to the World!

Isaac Watts · Lowell Mason

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

# 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](http://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

### Hallelujah

Blessing Offor · Chris Tomlin

Wise men, followin'  
The brightest star down to Bethlehem  
They came far for the coming again  
Of the One that's ever been.  
And when they found Him,  
They fell onto the ground and,  
Joined the angels shoutin'  
Singing all around Him:

*Sing Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
That's what the angels cried.  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Precious little child.  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Sound of the angels' joy.  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Little baby boy.*

King of, every King,  
Prince of Peace and everything,  
God with us and He's the only One that's ever been.  
So when we found Him,  
We fell onto the ground and,  
Joined the angels shouting,  
Singing all around Him, sing: *Chorus*

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Little baby boy. *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

## Genesis 12:1-4

The passage can be found on pages 8-9 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.

<sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

# SERMON

## *The Promised One* | The Promised Son

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 at  
each station.*

# COMMUNION HYMN

## Christmas Day

Chris Tomlin · We The Kingdom

Joy to the world,  
On a night like no other.  
Emmanuel, God is with us.  
Beggars and kings,  
Let us come and adore Him.  
Rest in His peace,  
And bow before Him.

*Sing all you people,  
The Lord Almighty reigns.  
Sing every creature of God,  
Come bless His name.  
For He is good, for He is good.  
He was born to conquer the grave.  
Light of the world,  
The reason for Christmas day.*

Stars we have seen,  
Over deserts and oceans.  
The darkness was deep,  
But never hopeless.  
Redemption came,  
And His name is Jesus.   *Chorus*

From the mountains  
We will shout it out,  
For the Lord our God Almighty reigns.  
He is with us.  
He is with us now.  
For the Lord our God Almighty reigns.   *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.*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

**2025 Projected Expenses: \$4,360,000**

**Year-to-Date Giving: \$3,423,000**

**2025 Remaining Need: \$937,000**

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

*Central's Nominating Committee, chaired this year by John Moon, enthusiastically encourages members of the congregation to offer recommendations for the positions of elder, deacon, and trustee to serve the church. Given the essential work of the officers, all individuals recommended to the committee should demonstrate an unabashed commitment to Jesus Christ and to the ministry of Central, as evidenced by active involvement in the life of the church as well as personally appropriate levels of financial support; to reformed theology as expressed in the Scriptures, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the Catechisms of the Church; to the Presbyterian form of government and the polity of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church; along with proven leadership ability in areas necessary for a church officer and a willingness to serve.*

*Please note that, in accordance with our by-laws, all potential candidates must undergo a course of instruction and be approved by the Session before being nominated and presented to the congregation. We invite you to contact John Moon ([moonjohnj@gmail.com](mailto:moonjohnj@gmail.com)) or Jason Harris ([seniorpastor@centralchurchnyc.org](mailto:seniorpastor@centralchurchnyc.org)) if you have any questions, if you would like to recommend an individual, or if you personally would like to participate in a course of instruction covering topics such as: church government, the sacraments, the faith of the church, the worship of the church, the discipline of the church, the history of the church, and an understanding of the various offices of the church. We highly value and deeply appreciate your active involvement in this important process.*