



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**December 28, 2025**

**First Sunday After Christmas**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The gospel says you are simultaneously more sinful and flawed than you ever dared believe, yet more loved and accepted than you ever dared hope.”

—TIM KELLER

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have given us your only Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

PSALM: Psalm 148

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Caroline Cassio*

### Of the Father's Love Begotten

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius · Trans. H. W. Baker

Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the Source, the Ending, He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!

This is He Whom Heav'n-taught singers  
Sang of old, with one accord;  
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the Long-expected;  
Let Creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
Hymn and chant with high thanksgiving,  
And unwearied praises be:  
Honour, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 98

LEADER        Oh sing to the LORD a new song for he has done marvelous things!

PEOPLE        **The LORD has made known his salvation. He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

LEADER        He has remembered his steadfast love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel.

PEOPLE        **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

LEADER        Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

PEOPLE        **Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

# HYMN

## O Come All Ye Faithful

John Francis Wade

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

## **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

## Psalm 103:1-13

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear 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

## Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley · Felix Mendelssohn · William H. Cummings

Hark! the Herald Angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’angelic host proclaim: “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! the Herald Angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored! Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th’incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the Herald Angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of  
Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the Herald Angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”



# 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](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](http://centralchurchnyc.org/give).*

# OFFERTORY

## Come For Us

David Zimmer · Lacy Hudson · Cameron Keith · Jonathan W Althoff

You made us sinless, reflecting Your image.  
All that we needed, You gave us in Eden.  
We went astray, death was the wage we earned.

Under the law You had given to bless us,  
We were enslaved and increasingly restless.  
When will You come? Lord, how we ache for You.

*Send from heaven our Messiah.  
Lord, hear our prayer and come for us.*

Born of a virgin, You came in our likeness,  
Loving the sinner in mercy and kindness,  
Dying our death, giving us life again.

Now, You have made us Your sons and Your daughters.  
Knowing Your goodness, we call You our Father.  
All that we need, given in Jesus.

*Sent from heaven, our Messiah.  
You heard our prayer and came for us.*

By Your Spirit we cry out:  
Abba Father, hear us now.

*Come from heaven, our Messiah.  
Lord, hear our prayer and come for us.*

# 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

### Psalm 51:1-17

The passage can be found on page 474 of the pew Bible.

- <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!
- <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.
- <sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- <sup>6</sup>Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

- <sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- <sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.
- <sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- <sup>16</sup>For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- <sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## SERMON

### ***Power in Weakness* | Broken and Beloved**

Rev. Hansol Kang

# 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

## Joy to the World! The Lord is Come

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.



## 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: \$3,819,000**

**2025 Remaining Need: \$541,000**

## 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.*