



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**February 1, 2026**

**Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Marriage is therefore provisional. So, too, is singleness! Both foreshadow and reflect the full one-flesh union of Christ with the church and each believer as his beloved bride through their participation in his death and resurrection. Their betrothal will be consummated in eternity. Then all those who share in his resurrection will celebrate their bodily union with Christ in his wedding supper (Rev. 19.7, 9; 21.2).”

—JOHN KLEINIG

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Graciously hear us, Lord God; and grant that we, to whom you have given an earnest desire to pray, may by your mighty aid be defended and strengthened in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

PSALM: Psalm 15

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Ben Sellick*

### The Church's One Foundation

Samuel J. Stone · Samuel S. Wesley · Brian Moss

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,  
She is his new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one over all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Revelation 19

LEADER        “Praise our God, all you his servants,

PEOPLE        **You who fear him, small and great.”**

LEADER        Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a  
great multitude,

PEOPLE        **Like the roar of many waters and like the sound  
of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,**

LEADER        “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God,

PEOPLE        **The Almighty reigns.**

LEADER        Let us rejoice and exult

PEOPLE        **And give him the glory,**

LEADER        For the marriage of the Lamb has come,

PEOPLE        **And his Bride has made herself ready;**

LEADER        It was granted her to clothe herself

PEOPLE        **With fine linen, bright and pure.”**

# HYMN

## Great Is thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm · William M. Runyan

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not; thy compassions, they fail not,  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*All I have needed thy hand hath provided.*  
*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.   *Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!   *Chorus*

## **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**

Father, we come to you today as people who need to be redeemed. We need to be made whole. We confess that we need you to heal us for we cannot heal ourselves. Forgive our wandering hearts. We run after acceptance, prestige, wealth, order, pleasure, and novelty in a desperate effort to heal our hearts. None of these can redeem us; none of these can make us whole. Yet we are slow to learn. Forgive our faithless hearts. We have looked for redemption everywhere but in you. We have not looked there because we doubt your goodness. Now, Father, accept our confession and receive us gladly. We ask this not based upon our deserving it, nor even upon the honesty of our confession, but for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## Ephesians 5:25-27

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

**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

## Psalm 34 (Taste and See)

Shane & Shane

I sought the Lord, and he answered me  
And delivered me from every fear.  
Those who look on him are radiant.  
They'll never be ashamed.  
They'll never be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard me  
And saved me from my enemies  
The Son of God surrounds his saints.  
He will deliver them.  
He will deliver them.

*Magnify the Lord with me.  
Come exalt his name together.  
Glorify the Lord with me.  
Come exalt his name forever.*

O taste and see that the Lord is good.  
O blessed is he who hides in him.  
O fear the Lord, oh all you saints.  
He'll give you everything.  
He'll give you everything. *Chorus*

Let us bless the Lord every day and night.  
Never ending praise, may our incense rise. *Chorus*

O taste and see that the Lord is good.  
He'll give you everything.  
He'll give you everything.



# 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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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

## Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One - 10 and 11:30 a.m. services

Healey Willan

Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.  
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear upon the earth.  
The time of singing of birds is come.  
Arise my love, my fair one, and come away.

## Covenant - 5 p.m. service

Bethany Barnard

Oh the Covenant that we are living in,  
It's more than rings on hands.  
It's a yes to the unknown.  
And in seasons of droubt,  
Or when famine comes around,  
We go to the storehouse,  
To the one who is always faithful.

*We are holding on, holding on.  
Yes we are holding on to him  
As he is holding on, holding on  
To our Covenant.*

Oh we can feel the ache.  
A sovereign hand turns the page.  
What was easy to say  
Is now staring us down.  
Is it till death do us part  
Or till a change of heart?  
Feelings go so far, but  
Where are we when they're gone?    *Chorus*

We reflect the greater story  
Of our King and his Bride.  
We're not hidden but shine brightly,  
Bearing witness in the night. *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

### Song of Songs 4:9-5:1

The passage can be found on page 562 of the pew Bible.

### Lover

- <sup>9</sup>You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride;  
you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes,  
with one jewel of your necklace.
- <sup>10</sup>How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride!  
How much better is your love than wine,  
and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!
- <sup>11</sup>Your lips drip nectar, my bride;  
honey and milk are under your tongue;  
the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of  
Lebanon.
- <sup>12</sup>A garden locked is my sister, my bride,  
a spring locked, a fountain sealed.

<sup>13</sup>Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates  
with all choicest fruits,  
henna with nard,  
<sup>14</sup>nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon,  
with all trees of frankincense,  
myrrh and aloes,  
with all choice spices—  
<sup>15</sup>a garden fountain, a well of living water,  
and flowing streams from Lebanon.

<sup>16</sup>Awake, O north wind,  
and come, O south wind!  
Blow upon my garden,  
let its spices flow.

## **Beloved**

Let my beloved come to his garden,  
and eat its choicest fruits.

## **Lover**

<sup>5</sup> <sup>1</sup>I came to my garden, my sister, my bride,  
I gathered my myrrh with my spice,  
I ate my honeycomb with my honey,  
I drank my wine with my milk.

## **Chorus**

Eat, friends, drink,  
and be drunk with love!

## **SERMON**

*The Song of Songs* | A Theology of Marriage  
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

## King of Kings

Jason Ingram · Brooke Ligertwood · Scott Ligertwood

In the darkness we were waiting,  
Without hope, without light,  
Till from heaven you came running,  
There was mercy in your eyes.  
To fulfill the law and prophets,  
To a virgin came the Word,  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father. Praise the Son.  
Praise the Spirit, three in one.  
God of glory, majesty.  
Praise forever to the King of Kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost,  
To redeem the whole creation,  
You did not despise the cross.  
For even in your suffering  
You saw to the other side.  
Knowing this was our salvation,  
Jesus for our sake you died. *Chorus*

And the morning that you rose,  
All of heaven held its breath,  
Till that stone was moved for good,  
For the Lamb had conquered death.  
And the dead rose from their tombs,  
And the angels stood in awe,  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born,  
Then the Spirit lit the flame.  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.  
By his blood and in his name,  
In his freedom I am free,  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected 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](mailto:care@centralchurchnyc.org) and detail your situation so one of our deacons can contact you directly.*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

**2026 Year-to-Date Giving: \$570,000**