



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“We abide in Christ when the eye is fixed upon Christ, when the tongue continually speaks of Christ, when the mind dwells on him, and when the affections are directed towards him.”

—THOMAS HOOKER

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son was revealed so that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that having this hope we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom, where with you, Father, and with the Holy Spirit, he lives and reigns, one God, forevermore. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

PSALM: Psalm 2

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Marta Bagratuni

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Traditional Welsh · 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!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 65

LEADER They shall build houses and inhabit them;

PEOPLE **They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.**

LEADER They shall not build and another inhabit;

PEOPLE **They shall not plant and another eat;**

LEADER For like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,

PEOPLE **And my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.**

LEADER Before they call I will answer;

PEOPLE **While they are yet speaking I will hear.**

LEADER The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;

PEOPLE **The lion shall eat straw like the ox.**

LEADER They shall not hurt or destroy,

PEOPLE **In all my holy mountain.**

HYMN

The Love of God

Bart Millard · Frederick M. Lehman · Jim Bryson

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave his Son to win;
His erring child, he reconciled
And pardoned from his sin.

*Oh love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song.*

Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky. *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

God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you; from purity to disordered loves, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Isaiah 25

Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.

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

Come Unto Jesus

Jordan Kauflin · Keith Getty · Kristyn Getty · Laura Story

Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary.
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here bring your wounded heart, broken and needy.
Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.

Joy of the comfortless, light for the straying,
Hope of the penitent, peace in our strife.
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,
“My yoke is easy, My burden is light.”

*Come unto Jesus, come unto Jesus.
Lay down your burdens, he is enough.
Come unto Jesus, rest in his love.*

Come, taste the Bread of Life broken for sinners.
Drink from the cup of his promise made sure.
Feast at his table as sons and as daughters.
Grace overflowing is yours evermore. *Chorus*

Come now and follow him, this life forsaking.
All that was gained count as nothing but loss.
Trade all this world for his kingdom unfading.
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross.
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross.
Life everlasting he offers to us. *Chorus*

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.

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.

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

Abide

Aaron Williams · CAIN

I depend on you.

For my waking breath, for my daily bread,

I depend on you.

I depend on you.

For the sun to rise, for my sleep at night,

I depend on you.

I depend on you.

You're the way the truth and the life.

You're the well that never runs dry.

I'm the branch and you are the vine.

Draw me close and teach me to abide.

Where the spirit leads, as I'm following,

I depend on you.

I depend on you.

For the victories still in front of me,

I depend on you.

I depend on you. *Chorus*

Be my strength, my song in the night.

Be my all, my treasure, my prize.

I am yours; forever you're mine.

Draw me close and teach me to abide.

When I pass through death, as I enter rest,
I depend on you.
I depend on you.

For eternal life, to be raised with Christ,
I depend on you.
I depend on you. *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

John 15:1-11

The passage can be found on pages 901-902 of the pew Bible.

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

SERMON

In Christ Alone

Rev. Twaambo Moyo

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

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

Michael Farren · Rich Thompson · Jonny Robinson

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine."
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Savior he will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, his power is displayed.

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley, he will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome,
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free,"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me,
Until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him,
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat,
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

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

2026 Year-to-Date Giving: \$668,000