



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

February 22, 2026
First Sunday of Lent

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Interpreters should not turn Jesus’ ‘fill the jars’ into a ‘fill your lives with’ or take Jesus’ ‘pour the water out’ into a ‘pour yourselves out for’ or his ‘take’ into a ‘take on an extraordinary obedience,’ all of which smell of a works-righteousness entirely out of harmony with this Gospel of trust. That the waiters fill the jars ‘right up to the top’ is an index of their enthusiasm, not a part, notice, of Jesus’ order. Sometimes expositors turn gracious stories about Jesus into burdensome requirements for heroic believers and so make the wrong persons the stories’ heroes and thus ruin the gospel inside the Gospel. In summary, Jesus’ commands here are minimal, not maximal. We must not overcharge the story with our part in it. The story honors a divine miracle, not a human achievement.”

—F. DALE BRUNER

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you fasted forty days and forty nights: Give us grace to use such abstinence that, our flesh being subdued by the spirit, we may always obey your will in righteousness and true holiness, to your honor and glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forevermore. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTORY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

PSALM: Psalm 32

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Door Na

And Can It Be

Charles Wesley · Thomas Campbell

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain,
For me, who him to death, pursued.
Amazing love! how can it be,
That thou, my God, should die for me?

*Amazing love! how can it be,
That thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left his Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite his grace;
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me. *Chorus*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. *Chorus*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold, I approach th' eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. *Chorus*

And Can It Be

Charles Wesley · Arr. Dr. Seth Ward

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain,
For me, who scorned his perfect love!

*Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?*

You left Your Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite your grace.
Emptied yourself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race. *Chorus*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine.
Alive in him, my living head
And clothed in righteousness divine. *Chorus*

Boldly I come before your throne
To claim your mercy, immense and free.
No greater love will e'er be known—
For, O my God, it found out me! *Chorus*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 65

LEADER I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;

PEOPLE **In the night also my heart instructs me.**

LEADER I have set the LORD always before me;

PEOPLE **Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

LEADER Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

PEOPLE **My flesh also dwells secure.**

LEADER For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

PEOPLE **Or let your holy one see corruption.**

LEADER You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;

PEOPLE **At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

HYMN

Rock of Ages

Augustus Toplady · Arr. James Ward

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone,
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress,
Helpless, look to thee for grace:
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in 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

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

Hebrews 12

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

What a Beautiful Name

Ben Fielding · Brooke Ligertwood

You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in you our Christ.

What a beautiful name it is,
What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a beautiful name it is; nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus.

You didn't want Heaven without us,
So Jesus, you brought Heaven down.
My sin was great, your love was greater;
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful name it is,
What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a wonderful name it is; nothing compares to this.
What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus.

Death could not hold you; the veil tore before you.
You silenced the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring the praise of your glory,
For you are raised to life again.

You have no rival; you have no equal.
Now and forever, God you reign.
Yours is the kingdom, yours is the glory;
Yours is the name above all names.

What a powerful name it is,
What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a powerful name it is; nothing can stand against.
What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.

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

Testimony

Joshua Silverburg · Matt Hammitt · Terrian Bass Woods

This is the moment where everything turns.
Didn't think I would see it, was hard to believe.
Heaven crashes to Earth.
I've read the stories of all that you've done,
Parted the sea and set captives free.
Never thought I'd be one.

*I am a living, breathing, walking testimony.
I am the living proof of what the Lord has done.
May call it crazy, but they can't take away my story,
'Cause I am a living, breathing, walking testimony.*

They said I wouldn't make it, that I should give up.
But they didn't know that the God that I serve
Is more than enough.
He can move mountains, he can make broken beautiful.
I never run out of hope when I run
To the God of miracles. *Chorus*

Look what the Lord has done.
Look what the Lord has done.
Oh, the enemy did what he could.
But the Lord, he has used it for good.
Oh, look what the Lord has done.
Oh, look what the Lord has done.
When the thief tried to steal and destroy,
The Lord gave me an anthem of joy. *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 2:1-11

The passage can be found on page 887 of the pew Bible.

¹On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.”

SERMON

A Day in the Life of Jesus | The Day Jesus Made the Best Wine

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

Our God

Chris Tomlin · Jesse Reeves · Jonas Myrin · Matt Redman

Water you turned into wine,
Opened the eyes of the blind.
There's no one like you,
None like you.

Into the darkness you shine.
Out of the ashes we rise.
There's no one like you,
None like you.

*Our God is greater, our God is stronger.
God, you are higher than any other.
Our God is healer, awesome in power,
Our God, our God.*

Into the darkness you shine.
Out of the ashes we rise.
There's no one like you,
None like you. *Chorus*

And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?
And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?
Then what could stand against? *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

2026 Year-to-Date Giving: \$733,000