



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**March 1, 2026**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“However great the peril, Jesus is aware and is able to deliver. It may be deliverance through trial, rather than from it, but one is to apply faith in such situations. Thus, the position of Jesus allows one to place trust in him. This is the lesson of discipleship that the stilling of the storm teaches.”

—DARRELL BOCK

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we confess that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

PSALM: Psalm 121

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Ben Sellick*

### Be Still My Soul

Jason Ingram · Kari Jobe · Katharina A. von Schlegel · Jean Sibelius

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In every change, he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
To guide the future, as he has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

*[Added chorus during 5 p.m. service]*

*In you I rest, in you I found my hope.  
In you I trust, you never let me go.  
I place my life within your hands alone.  
Be still, my soul.*

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,  
Then shall you better know his love, his heart,  
Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.  
Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay  
From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord.  
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.    *Chorus (5 p.m. service)*

# WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Jonah 2

LEADER I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,  
and he answered me;

PEOPLE **Out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.**

LEADER For you cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,  
and the flood surrounded me;

PEOPLE **All your breakers and your waves  
passed over me.**

LEADER When my life was fainting away,  
I remembered the LORD,

PEOPLE **And my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.**

LEADER Those who pay regard to vain idols  
forsake their hope of steadfast love.

PEOPLE **But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;**

LEADER What I have vowed I will pay.

PEOPLE **Salvation belongs to the LORD!**

# HYMN

## Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

Edward Hopper

Jesus, Savior, pilot me,  
Over life's tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;  
Chart and compass come from thee:  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,  
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;  
Boist'rous waves obey thy will  
When thou say'st to them, "Be still!"  
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I reach the shore,  
And the fearful breakers roar  
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest,  
Then, while leaning on thy breast,  
May I hear thee say to me,  
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."  
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

## **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**

Holy Father, forgive us. Though you should guide us, we inform ourselves. Though you should rule us, we control ourselves. Though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. For we think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Heal our confused mind with your word, heal our divided will with your law, heal our troubled conscience with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

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

## Still

Reuben Morgan · David Shipps · Dan Galbraith

Hide me now,  
Beneath your wings.  
Cover me  
Within your mighty hand.

*When the oceans rise  
And thunders roar,  
I will soar with you  
Above the storm.  
Father, you are king  
Over the flood.  
I will be still,  
Know you are God.*

Find rest, my soul,  
In Christ alone.  
Know his pow'r,  
In quietness and trust. *Chorus*

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

## OFFERTORY

### Peace Be Still

Andrew Holt · Hope Darst · Mia Fieldes

I don't want to be afraid  
Every time I face the waves.  
I don't want to be afraid.  
I don't want to be afraid.  
I don't want to fear the storm  
Just because I hear it roar.  
I don't want to fear the storm.  
I don't want to fear the storm.

*Peace be still.  
Say the word and I will  
Set my feet upon the sea  
'Til I'm dancing in the deep.  
Peace be still.  
You are here so it is well.  
Even when my eyes can't see,  
I will trust the voice that speaks.*

I'm not gonna be afraid,  
'Cause these waves are only waves.  
I'm not gonna be afraid.  
No, I'm not gonna be afraid.  
And I'm not gonna fear the storm.  
You are greater than its roar.  
Oh, I'm not gonna fear the storm.  
No, I'm not gonna fear at all. *Chorus*

Peace, peace over me.  
You speak peace.

Let faith rise up.  
O heart believe.  
Let faith rise up in me. *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

## Mark 4:35-41

The passage can be found on pages 839-840 of the pew Bible.

<sup>35</sup>On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. <sup>38</sup>But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” <sup>39</sup>And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

## SERMON

### *A Day in the Life of Jesus* | The Day Jesus Silenced a Super Storm

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

## Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Matt Crocker · Joel Houston

You call me out upon the waters,  
The great unknown, where feet may fail,  
And there I find you in the myst'ry,  
In oceans deep, my faith will stand.

*And I will call upon your name,  
And keep my eyes above the waves,  
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in your embrace,  
For I am yours, and you are mine.*

Your grace abounds in deepest waters,  
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,  
You've never failed, and you won't start now. *Chorus*

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,  
Let me walk upon the waters,  
Wherever you would call me;  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander,  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Savior. *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.*

## CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

*Please take a few minutes to fill out this year's congregational survey at [centralchurchnyc.org/survey](https://centralchurchnyc.org/survey).*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

**2026 Year-to-Date Giving: \$787,000**