



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“If the story of the prodigal son has a claim to be the finest story Jesus ever told, the tale of the two on the road to Emmaus must have an equal claim to be the finest scene Luke ever sketched...The slow, sad dismay at the failure of human hopes; the turning to someone who might or might not help; the discovery that, in scripture, all unexpected, there lay keys which might unlock the central mysteries and enable us to find the truth; the sudden realization of Jesus himself, present with us, warming our hearts with his truth, showing us himself as bread broken. This describes the experience of innumerable Christians, and indeed goes quite a long way to explaining what it is about Christianity that grasps us and holds us in the face of so much that is wrong with the world, with the church, and with ourselves.”

—N.T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: Grant that we may put away the old leaven of corruption and wickedness, and always serve you in purity and truth; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

PSALM: Psalm 16

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Marta Bagratuni

Love's Redeeming Work Is Done

Charles Wesley · Alex Mejias

Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won.
Death in vain forbids him rise,
Christ has opened paradise.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King,
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once he died our souls to save,
Where thy victory, O grave?
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led,
Following our exalted Head.
Made like him, like him we rise,
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 65

LEADER See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.

PEOPLE **The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.**

LEADER But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will
create,

PEOPLE **For I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and
its people a joy.**

LEADER I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in
my people;

PEOPLE **The sound of weeping and of crying will be
heard in it no more.**

HYMN

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*

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*

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

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Colossians 2:13-15

When you were dead in your trespasses, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in 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

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine;
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

*On Christ the solid rock I stand.
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from his hand;
'Til he returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 10 A.M. SERVICE

Kyle Scott Santiago

Son of Kevin and Anne Santiago

Baptismal Vows

- 1 Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2 Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for Kyle's salvation, as you do for your own?
- 3 Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the truths of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring Kyle up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Kevin and Anne in the Christian nurture of their child?

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN - 5:00 P.M. SERVICE

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 - 5:00 P.M. SERVICE

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 - 10:00 AND 11:30 A.M. SERVICES

Was It a Morning Like This

Jim Croegaert

Central Youth and Children's Choirs

Was it a morning like this
When the Son still hid from Jerusalem?
And Mary rose from her bed
To tend to the Lord she thought was dead?
Was it a morning like this
When Mary walked down from Jerusalem?
And two angels stood at the tomb,
Bearers of news she would hear soon?

*Did the grass sing?
Did the earth rejoice to feel you again?*

Over and over like a trumpet underground
Did the earth seem to pound, "He is risen!"
Over and over in a never-ending round,
"He is risen! Hallelujah, hallelujah!"

Was it a morning like this
When Peter and John ran from Jerusalem?
And as they raced towards the tomb,
Beneath their feet was there a tune? *Chorus*

OFFERTORY - 5:00 P.M. SERVICE

Christ Is Risen

Phil Wickham

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
For I once was lost but now I'm found,
Was blind but now I see.

*Hallelujah,
Christ is risen from the grave.
Hallelujah,
Christ is risen from the grave.*

The prodigal is welcomed home,
The sinner now a saint.
For the God who died came back to life,
And everything is changed. *Chorus*

Oh death, where is your sting?
Oh fear, where is your power?
For the mighty King of Kings has disarmed you.
Delivered and redeemed,
Eternal life resounds.
Oh praise his name forever. *Chorus*

*And all throughout eternity
Our song will be the same.
Hallelujah,
Christ is risen from the grave.*

And on the day you call me in
To Heaven's sweet embrace,
I'll see your scars, your open arms,
And the beauty of your face.
Through tears of joy, I'll lift my voice
In everlasting praise.
Hallelujah,
Christ is risen from the grave.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN - 10:00 AND 11:30 A.M. SERVICES

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.

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

Luke 24:13-35

The passage can be found on page 885 of the pew Bible.

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON

A Day in the Life of Jesus | The Day Jesus Explained It All

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 and detail your situation so one of our deacons can contact you directly.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2026 Projected Expenses: \$4,740,000

Year-to-Date Giving: \$1,361,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$3,379,000