



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“One of the notable features of Paul’s teaching is that he regularly combines doctrine with duty, belief with behavior. In consequence, as in some of his other letters, he now turns in Romans 12 from exposition to exhortation, from the gospel to everyday Christian discipleship...Moreover, it is not only individual or personal ethics to which Paul now introduces his readers. He is concerned to depict the characteristics of the new community which Jesus has brought into being by his death and resurrection.”

—JOHN STOTT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of a godly life: Give us grace that we may always thankfully receive the inestimable benefit of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavor to follow in the blessed steps of his most holy life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forevermore. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Doori Na

Thine Be The Glory

G.F. Handel · Edmond Budry · Tr. Richard Hoyle

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conqu'ring Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. *Chorus*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Chorus*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 51

LEADER O LORD, open my lips,

PEOPLE **And my mouth will declare your praise.**

LEADER For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;

PEOPLE **You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

LEADER The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

PEOPLE **A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Isaac Watts · John Hatton · Keith Getty · Edmond Martin Cash · Kristyn Getty

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
'Til moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

(Added chorus at the 5 p.m. service)

*To our King be highest praise,
Rising through eternal days.
Just and faithful he shall reign.
Jesus shall reign!*

People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name. *Chorus (5 p.m. only)*

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen! *Chorus (5 p.m. only)*

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

Merciful God, we confess that we have been shaped by this world instead of transformed by your truth. Forgive us, we pray. In your mercy, renew our minds, reshape our hearts, and awaken in us a longing to seek your good, acceptable, and perfect will. Grant that we, as your people, may no longer be formed by this age, but made new in Christ, living lives that are holy and pleasing in your sight. We ask this not upon our deserving it, nor even the honesty of our confession, but on the basis of Jesus' finished work on the cross. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hebrews 10:11-12

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand 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

Build My Life

Matthew Redman · Kirby Kaple · Brett Younker · Joseph Barrett · Karl Martin

Worthy of every song we could ever sing,
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring,
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for you.

Jesus, the name above every other name.
Jesus, the only one who could ever save.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for you.

*Holy, there is no one like you.
There is none beside you,
Open up my eyes in wonder.
Show me who you are and fill me
With your heart and lead me
In your love to those around me.*

Jesus, the name above every other name.
Jesus, the only one who could ever save.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for you. *Chorus*

I will build my life upon your love.
It is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in you alone,
And I will not be shaken. *Chorus*

Worthy of every song we could ever sing,
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring,
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for you.

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

Left It in the River

Colby Wedgeworth · Jamie Macdonald · Jonathan Gamble

I had burdens on my shoulders all my life.
I tried and tried to leave 'em all behind,
But freedom's one thing I could never find.

I said a prayer from the banks of a river.
God met me there, showing me something better.

*My life was changed
When I stepped into the water.
Ain't seen my chains
Since I gave 'em to the Father.
Hallelujah, I've been delivered.
Where is my guilt?
Where is my shame?
I left it in the river.
I left it in the river.*

Now, there's nothing that can take this joy I've found.
He raised me up and I ain't coming down.
He washed me clean and now there ain't no doubt,
He turned it all around. *Chorus*

I said a prayer from the banks of a river.
God met me there showing me something better.
I left my wrongs at the bottom of the river.
I said so long, said goodbye forever. *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

Romans 12:1-2

The passage can be found on page 947 of the pew Bible.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

SERMON

God's Vision for a New Humanity | A Changed Relationship to God

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

Resurrection Power

Ed Cash · Tony Brown · Ryan Ellis

You called me from the grave by name.
You called me out of all my shame.
I see the old has passed away.
The new has come.

*Now I have resurrection power living on the inside.
Jesus, you have given us freedom.
No longer bound by sin and darkness,
Living in the light of your goodness,
You have given us freedom.*

That I'm dressed in your royalty,
Your Holy Spirit lives in me,
And I see my past has been redeemed.
The new has come. *Chorus*

Freedom, you have given us freedom.
You have given us freedom, my chains are gone.
Freedom, you have given us freedom.
You have given us freedom, hallelujah! *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. ☺

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We welcome anyone who would like to serve in one or more of our Sunday volunteer roles, including Sunday Service Teams, Hospitality Team, Children's Ministry, and Youth Ministry. Learn more about volunteer opportunities at centralchurchnyc.org/connect/volunteer.

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: \$1,406,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$3,334,000