



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which every one in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves. I have heard people admit that they are bad-tempered, or that they cannot keep their heads about girls or drink, or even that they are cowards. I do not think I have ever heard anyone who was not a Christian accuse himself of this vice. And at the same time I have very seldom met anyone who showed the slightest mercy to it in others. There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others. The vice I am talking of is Pride or Self-Conceit.”

—C. S. LEWIS

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth so that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's service that they may renounce those things that are contrary to their profession and follow all such things as are agreeable to it; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

PSALM: Psalm 23

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Ben Sellick

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

Kate B. Wilkinson · A. Cyril Barham-Gould

May the mind of Christ my Savior
Live in me from day to day,
By his love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.

May the word of Christ dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through his pow'r.

May the peace of Christ my Savior
Rule my life in ev'rything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ephesians 4

LEADER There is one body and one Spirit,

**PEOPLE Just as we were called to the one hope of our
calling,**

LEADER One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

PEOPLE One God and Father of all,

LEADER Who is above all and through all and in all.

**PEOPLE Come, worship God - Father, Son and Holy
Spirit!**

HYMN

Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed

Ed Cash · Keith Getty · Kristyn Getty

How can it be, the one who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death?
Sing, sing hallelujah!
For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive he stands, their friend and king.
Christ, Christ, he is risen!

Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!
Oh, sing hallelujah!
Join the chorus with all the redeemed.
Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!

Where doubt and darkness once had been,
They saw him and their hearts believed.
But blessed are those who have not seen.
Yet, sing hallelujah!
Once bound by fear now bold in faith,
They preached the truth and power of grace.
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life, life everlasting. *Chorus*

The power that raised him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save.
He frees our hearts to live his grace.
Go tell of his goodness! *Chorus*

He is risen! He's alive! He's alive!
Heaven's gates are opened wide.
He's alive! He's alive!
Now in heaven glorified!

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 God, in the light of your holiness we see ourselves as we really are, and we are ashamed. We confess that we are people of impure thoughts and unclean lips; we think too highly of ourselves and too little of others. We cling so tightly to the treasures of this world that we cannot open our hands to receive blessings from above. Our feet follow the paths of sin; we wander so far astray that we become strangers to righteousness. Forgive us, and set us again on the path that leads to life. Deal with us not as we deserve, but according to your mercy; not because we are worthy but because you are gracious. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

O Praise the Name

Dean Usher · Marty Sampson · Benjamin Hastings

I cast my mind to Calvary,
Where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see his wounds, his hands, his feet.
My Savior on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears,
They laid him down in Joseph's tomb.
The entrance sealed by heavy stone,
Messiah still and all alone.

*O praise the name of the Lord our God!
O praise his name forever more!
For endless days we will sing your praise,
O Lord, O Lord our God!*

Then on the third at break of dawn,
The Son of Heaven rose again.
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King! *Chorus*

He shall return in robes of white,
The blazing sun shall pierce the night.
And I will rise among the saints,
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face. *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

All the People Said Amen

Paul Greer Moak · Trevor Morgan · Matthew Maher

You are not alone if you are lonely.
When you're feeling frail, you're not the only.
We are all the same in need of mercy,
To be forgiven and be free.
It's all you got to lean on,
But thank God, it's all you need.

*And all the people said "Amen."
And all the people said "Amen."
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends.
And all the people said "Amen."*

If you're rich or poor, it doesn't matter.
Weak or strong, we know love is what we're after.
We're all broken, but we're all in this together.
God knows we stumble and fall.
And he so loved the world he sent his Son to save us all. *Chorus*

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart.
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart.
Blessed are the people lonely for another start.
For this is a kingdom, the kingdom of God. *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 12:1-8

The passage can be found on pages 947-948 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.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

SERMON

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

Rev. Andrew Smith

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

Who You Say I Am

Brooke Ligertwood · Michael Guy Chislett

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?
I was lost but he brought me in; oh, his love for me!
Oh, his love for me!

*Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed!
I'm a child of God! Yes, I am!*

Free at last, he has ransomed me; his grace runs deep.
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me.
Yes, he died for me.

*Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed!
I'm a child of God! Yes, I am!
In my Father's house is a place for me;
I'm a child of God! Yes, I am!*

I am chosen, not forsaken; I am who you say I am!
You are for me, not against me; I am who you say I am!
I am who you say I am! *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: \$1,444,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$3,296,000