



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“There is another story...playing out simultaneously within the deep structures of American political culture. One could describe it as an emerging ‘common’ culture, the form of which is manifest within and across every faction and division in American public life. Its shared cultural logic is defined by a moral authority rooted in rage, anger, and often hatred. Its *mythoi* or collective self-understanding revolve around narratives of injury and woundedness. Its ethical dispositions are defined by the desire for revenge through a predilection to negate. Its anthropology effectively reduces fellow citizens to enemies whose very presence represents an existential threat. And its *teloi* are power oriented toward domination.”

—JAMES DAVISON HUNTER

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Heavenly Father, the giver of all good things, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and grant that by your holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guidance may perform them; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS**

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Marta Bagratuni*

### Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander · Catherine Winkworth · Christy Nockels

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!  
O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
Praise him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth.  
Shelters thee under his wings, yea so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what he ordaineth?

*(Chorus during 5 p.m. service)*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!*

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If in his love he befriend thee. *Chorus (5 p.m.)*

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
Gladly, for aye, we adore him. *Chorus (5 p.m.)*

# WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 36

LEADER LORD, you have seen this; do not be silent.

PEOPLE **Do not be far from me, LORD.**

LEADER Awake, and rise to my defense!

PEOPLE **Contend for me, my God and LORD.**

LEADER Vindicate me in your righteousness, LORD my God;

PEOPLE **Do not let them gloat over me.**

LEADER Do not let them think, “Aha, just what we wanted!”

PEOPLE **Or say, “We have swallowed him up.”**

LEADER May those who delight in my vindication

PEOPLE **Shout for joy and gladness;**

LEADER May they always say, “The LORD be exalted,

PEOPLE **Who delights in the well-being of his servant.”**

LEADER My tongue will proclaim your righteousness,

PEOPLE **Your praises all day long.**

# HYMN

## O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Aaron Sensman · Arr. Dr. Seth Ward

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My Great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life and health and peace.

My Gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad,  
The honors of thy name.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin,  
He sets the pris'ner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
His blood avails for me.

Look unto him, ye nations, own  
Your God, ye fallen race;  
Look, and be saved through faith alone,  
Be justified by grace.

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My Great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of his grace!

## **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

## Luke 23:34

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

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

## Come Unto Jesus

Jordan Kauflin · Keith Getty · Kristyn Getty · Laura Story

Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary.  
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.  
Here bring your wounded heart, broken and needy.  
Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.

Joy of the comfortless, light for the straying,  
Hope of the penitent, peace in our strife.  
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,  
“My yoke is easy, My burden is light.”

*Come unto Jesus, come unto Jesus.  
Lay down your burdens, he is enough.  
Come unto Jesus, rest in his love.*

Come, taste the Bread of Life broken for sinners.  
Drink from the cup of his promise made sure.  
Feast at his table as sons and as daughters.  
Grace overflowing is yours evermore. *Chorus*

Come now and follow him, this life forsaking.  
All that was gained count as nothing but loss.  
Trade all this world for his kingdom unfading.  
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross.  
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross.  
Life everlasting he offers to us. *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

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 10 A.M. SERVICE

Cade James Rallis and Quinton John Rallis  
Sons of Dean George (Trey) Rallis III and Nicole Christine Rallis

### Baptismal Vows

- 1 Do you acknowledge your children'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 their behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for Cade and Quinton's salvation, as you do for your own?
- 3 Do you now unreservedly dedicate your children to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before them a godly example, that you will pray with and for them, that you will teach them the truths of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring Cade and Quinton up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

### Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Trey and Nicole in the Christian nurture of their children?

## 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 - 11:30 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M. SERVICES

*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](http://centralchurchnyc.org/give).*

# OFFERTORY

## Day for Singing

Jessie Early · Taylor Leonhardt · Jessica Ray Langdon · Mitch Wong

*Central Youth Choir (10 and 11:30 a.m. services)*

Mercy, rising with the rising of the sun.  
Goodness, rushing in and filling up my lungs.

Your faithfulness is here and now.  
The evidence is all around.

*I bless your name.  
I give you praise.  
Today is a day for singing!  
Awake, my soul.  
Come on, praise the Lord.  
Today is a day for singing!  
Oh my soul, praise the Lord.  
Oh my soul, today is a day for singing.*

A new song is welling up from deep inside of me.  
There's new life; hallelujah, I have been redeemed.  
I have been redeemed!

*I bless your name.  
I give you praise.  
Today is a day for singing!  
Awake, my soul.  
Come on, praise the Lord.  
Today is a day for singing!*

Oh my soul, praise the Lord.  
Oh my soul, today is a day for singing.  
Today is a day for singing.

From the valley to the mountain,  
The desert to the fountain,  
Oh, I will praise you!  
From the morning to the evening,  
As long as I am breathing,  
Today is a day for singing! *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 12:17-21

The passage can be found on page 948 of the pew Bible.

<sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## SERMON

### *God's Vision for a New Humanity* | A Changed Relationship to Our Enemies

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

## Great Are You, Lord

Jason Ingram · David Leonard · Leslie Jordan

You give life, you are love,  
You bring light to the darkness.  
You give hope, you restore  
every heart that is broken.  
And great are you, Lord.

*It's your breath in our lungs,  
So we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise.  
It's your breath in our lungs,  
So we pour out our praise to you only.*

You give life, you are love,  
You bring light to the darkness.  
You give hope, you restore  
Every heart that is broken.  
And great are you, Lord. *Chorus*

All the earth will shout your praise.  
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing.  
Great are you, Lord. *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 volunteer roles, including Sunday Service Teams, Hospitality Team, Children's Ministry, and Youth Ministry. Learn more about volunteer opportunities at [centralchurchnyc.org/callforvolunteers](http://centralchurchnyc.org/callforvolunteers).*

## 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.*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

**2026 Projected Expenses: \$4,740,000**

**Year-to-Date Giving: \$1,711,000**

**2026 Remaining Need: \$3,029,000**