



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**June 7, 2026**

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Good and tender Shepherd, hear us.  
Bread of Heaven, in love come near us.  
Feed us, lead us, and defend us;  
Make us see whate’er Thou send us,  
In the land of earthly living,  
Is thy wise and gracious giving.”

—THOMAS AQUINAS

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: mercifully accept our prayers, and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-9

PSALM: Psalm 33:1-12

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Marta Bagratuni*

### The Church's One Foundation

Samuel J. Stone · Samuel S. Wesley

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,  
She is his new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one over all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

# WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 95

LEADER Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

**PEOPLE Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

LEADER Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

**PEOPLE Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

LEADER For he is our God,

**PEOPLE And we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.**

# HYMN

## Agnus Dei

Michael W. Smith · Arr. Dan Galbraith

Alleluia, alleluia,  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns.

Alleluia, alleluia,  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns.

Alleluia, holy!  
Holy are you, Lord God Almighty.  
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.

For you are holy!  
Holy are you, Lord God Almighty.  
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen.

## **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**

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from your grace, there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## 1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

## He Will Hold Me Fast

Keith Getty · Kristyn Getty

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.*

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last;  
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast. *Chorus*

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.  
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last! *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

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

Evelyn Love Milligan and Margaret Wood Milligan

Daughters of Peter and Lauren Milligan

### 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 Evelyn and Margaret'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 Evelyn and Margaret up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

### Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Peter and Lauren 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 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 - 10 AND 11:30 A.M. SERVICES

## For the Beauty of the Earth/This is My Father's World

Franklin Sheppard · Follitt S. Pierpoint · William Chatterton Dix · Arr. David Maddux

*Andrea Miller, soloist*

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies.  
Christ our God to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and 'round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world.  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world.  
The birds their carols raise.  
The morning light, the lily white,  
Declares their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world.  
He shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world.  
The battle is not done.  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied.  
And earth and heaven be one.

# OFFERTORY - 5 P.M. SERVICE

## Still Waters

Justin Richards · Leanna Crawford · Jonathan Gamble

Great Aunt Maurine said at a hundred and three,  
“Write scripture on your heart for when you need it,  
'Cause anxiety hates Psalm 23.  
So just say it to yourself 'til you believe it.”  
And I'm feeling like I'm needing it right now.

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.  
He leads me by still waters 'til my fears are gone.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
Oh, I know you are with me, my Father, my friend.  
Your goodness and mercy will follow me all of my days.  
I know by your still waters, I'm safe.*

Lord, I believe you can set me at ease.  
Turn this broken piece in me to peace and quiet.  
I know there's power in your Word.  
So I'll say it over and over 'til my soul's reminded. *Chorus*

Still waters run through any valley I could find.  
I'm laying fear down here at Heaven's riverside.  
Your Word has been true in every season of my life.  
I believe, yes, I believe.  
Still waters run through any valley I could find.  
I'm laying fear down here at Heaven's riverside.  
Your Word has been true in every season of my life.  
I believe, yes, I believe. *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

### Psalm 23:1-6

The passage can be found on page 458 of the pew Bible.

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

# SERMON

## A Song for the Fearful

Rev. Shawn Slate

### REV. SHAWN SLATE'S BIO

*Shawn is in his eleventh year as senior pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church of Knoxville. He enjoys spending time with his family, oil painting, playing tennis, baking bread, and asking you his favorite icebreaker question.*

# 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

## What a Beautiful Name

Ben Fielding · Brooke Ligertwood

You were the Word at the beginning,  
One with God the Lord Most High.  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now revealed in you our Christ.

What a beautiful name it is,  
What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ my King.  
What a beautiful name it is; nothing compares to this.  
What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus.

You didn't want Heaven without us,  
So Jesus, you brought Heaven down.  
My sin was great, your love was greater;  
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful name it is,  
What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ my King.  
What a wonderful name it is; nothing compares to this.  
What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus.

Death could not hold you; the veil tore before you.  
You silenced the boast of sin and grave.  
The heavens are roaring the praise of your glory,  
For you are raised to life again.

You have no rival; you have no equal.  
Now and forever, God you reign.  
Yours is the kingdom, yours is the glory;  
Yours is the name above all names.

What a powerful name it is,  
What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ my King.  
What a powerful name it is; nothing can stand against.  
What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.

## 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: \$1,998,000**

**2026 Remaining Need: \$2,742,000**

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that (a) the 2026 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Presbyterian Church (“Central Church”), a church affiliated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and (b) the 2026 Annual Meeting of the members of The Trustees of Central Presbyterian Church of the City of New York, aka Central Presbyterian Church (“Central Corporation”), a New York religious corporation incorporated in 1821 and affiliated with Central Church, will be held in the fellowship hall on the sixth floor of the church building at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, 2025.

The purposes of the Annual Meetings are to:

- i. present the reports of the various church committees and respond to questions;
- ii. in the case of the 2026 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Church, to elect: (a) two elders for terms expiring in 2029, and (b) three deacons for terms expiring in 2029;
- iii. in the case of the 2026 Annual Meeting of the members of Central Corporation, to elect two trustees for terms expiring in 2029; and
- iv. to transact any other business that may properly come before such meetings.

On behalf of the Session of Central Church, by its Moderator and Clerk of Session

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Central Corporation, by its President and Secretary