



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

June 28, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Nicodemus seems always, if we may put it this way, ‘canny’ to a fault. He is fixated almost totally on what he thinks human beings ‘can’ or ‘cannot’ do or can or cannot have done to them — in short, he is focused entirely on what he thinks are human possibilities or capabilities.”

—F. DALE BRUNER

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, the protector of all who put their trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy, so that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father; for our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 22:1-14

PSALM: Psalm 13

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Caroline Cassio

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Chris Tomlin

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear,
And Grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed!

*My chains are gone:
I've been set free!
My God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood his mercy reigns;
Unending love, amazing grace.*

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures. *Chorus*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103

LEADER Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,

PEOPLE **Bless his holy name!**

LEADER Bless the LORD, O my soul,

PEOPLE **And forget not all his benefits,**

LEADER Who forgives all your iniquity,

PEOPLE **Who heals all your diseases,**

LEADER Who redeems your life from the pit,

PEOPLE **Who crowns you with steadfast love and
mercy,**

LEADER Who satisfies you with good

PEOPLE **So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

HYMN

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Matt Redman

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.

Worship his holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul.

I'll worship your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,

It's time to sing your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,

Let me be singing when the evening comes. *Chorus*

You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger,

Your name is great, and your heart is kind.

For all your goodness, I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Chorus*

And on that day when my strength is failing

The end is near, and my time has come

Still my soul will sing your praise unending:

Ten thousand years and then forevermore! *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

Almighty and most merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS - 10 AM SERVICE

Faye Dykstra, Colette Fu, Flomar Maurasse,
Jeanne Maurasse, Julian Maurasse, James Sholes,
George Soufleris, Eleanor Soufleris, Marks Trivedi

Membership Vows

- 1 Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in God's sight and without hope for your salvation except through his sovereign mercy?
- 2 Do you believe in the Lord Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
- 3 Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
- 4 Do you promise to serve Christ and His church by supporting this congregation in its worship of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?
- 5 Do you promise to accept the spiritual guidance of the church, to walk in a spirit of Christian love with this congregation, and to seek those things that make for unity, purity and peace?

Congregational Vow

Will you, the members of this congregation and witnesses of these vows, acting on behalf of yourself and as representatives of the whole body of Christ, do everything within your power to encourage these new members to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 10 AM SERVICE

James Roger Sholes III

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 AM AND 5 PM SERVICES

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](https://www.centralchurchnyc.org/give).*

OFFERTORY

This Is Amazing Grace

Phil Wickham · Lecrae Moore · Jeremy Riddle · Joshua Neil Farro

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

*This is amazing grace,
This is unfailing love,
That you would take my place,
That you would bear my cross.
You laid down your life
That I would be set free.
Jesus, I sing for
All that you've done for me.*

Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphan a son or daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings. *Chorus*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave. (x3)
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Worthy, worthy, worthy! *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

John 3:1-15

The passage can be found on pages 887-888 of the pew Bible.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

SERMON

***Questions for Jesus* | “How can these things be?”**

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

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 volunteer roles, including Sunday Service Teams, Hospitality Team, Children's Ministry, and Youth Ministry. Learn more about volunteer opportunities at 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 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: \$2,252,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$2,488,000