



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

July 5, 2026

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“If you are to be approved, let the Word of God approve you; if you are to be condemned, let the Word of God condemn you; if you are to be examined, let the Word of God examine you. Do not care what the world says and what temptations suggest; but hear what Christ says, and listen only to what the Word of God says, and what verdict that passes.”

—THOMAS HOOKER

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we pray that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered through your governance that your church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

PSALM: Psalm 45:10-17

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Marta Bagratuni

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

William Kethe

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forthtell;
Come ye before him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103

LEADER The LORD is righteous in all his ways

PEOPLE **And kind in all his works.**

LEADER The LORD is near to all who call on him,

PEOPLE **To all who call on him in truth.**

LEADER He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;

PEOPLE **He also hears their cry and saves them.**

LEADER The LORD preserves all who love him,

PEOPLE **But all the wicked he will destroy.**

LEADER My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,

PEOPLE **And let all flesh bless his holy name forever
and ever.**

HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Edward Mote

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil. *Chorus*

His oath, his covenant, his blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. *Chorus*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found:
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne. *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

Lord God, we have given more weight to our successes and our happiness than to your will. We have eaten without a thought for the hungry. We have spoken without an effort to understand others. We have kept silence instead of telling the truth. We have judged others, forgetful that you alone are the Judge. We have acted rather in accordance with our opinions than according to your commands. Within your church we have been slow to practice love of our neighbors. And in the world we have not been your faithful servants. Forgive us and help us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Matt Boswell · Matt Papa · Keith Getty · Matt Merker · Jordan Kauflin

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to him belong.

Who holds our days within his hand?
What comes apart from his command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ in which we stand.

*Oh, sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal.
Oh, sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess,
Christ, our hope in life and death.*

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is his grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore? The rock of Christ. *Chorus*

Unto the grave, what will we sing?
"Christ, he lives! Christ, he lives!"
And what reward will Heaven bring?
Everlasting life with him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord.
Then sin and death will be destroyed.
And we will feast in endless joy,
When Christ is ours forevermore. *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

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

I Will Wait for You

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend · Matt Merker · Jordan Kauflin

Out of the depths I cry to you.
In darkest places I will call.
Incline your ear to me anew
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

Were you to count my sinful ways
How could I come before your throne?
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze.
I stand redeemed by grace alone.

*I will wait for you, I will wait for you.
On your word I will rely.
And I will wait for you, surely wait for you,
'Til my soul is satisfied.*

So put your hope in God alone.
Take courage in his power to save.
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave. *Chorus*

Now he has come to make a way,
And God himself has paid the price.
That all who trust in him today
Find healing in his sacrifice.
That all who trust in him today
Find healing in his sacrifice.

*I will wait for you, I will wait for you,
Through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for you, surely wait for you,
For your love is my delight.*

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 - 10 AND 11:30 A.M. SERVICES

John 18:33-40

The passage can be found on pages 904-905 of the pew Bible.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” ⁴⁰They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

SERMON - 10 AND 11:30 A.M. SERVICES

Questions for Jesus | “What is truth?”

Rev. Twaambo Moyo

SCRIPTURE READING - 5 P.M. SERVICE

Luke 23:32-43

The passage can be found on page 884 of the pew Bible.

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

SERMON - 5 P.M. SERVICE

Questions for Jesus | “Are you not the Christ?”

Nick Rodriguez

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.

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: \$2,290,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$2,450,000