



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“‘One thing is needful.’ How true that saying! The longer we live in the world, the more true it will appear. The nearer we come to the grave, the more thoroughly we shall assent to it. In all such seasons, let the words of our Lord ring in our ears like a trumpet, and bring us to a right mind. ‘One thing is needful.’ If Christ is ours, we have all and abound.”

—J. C. RYLE

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and so by your mercy keep us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a

PSALM: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Ben Sellick

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Rowland H. Prichard · Arr. Robert Harkness

I will sing of my Redeemer
And his wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross he suffered
From the curse to set me free.

*Sing, oh sing, of my Redeemer,
With his blood, he purchased me.
On the cross he sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt, and made me free.*

I will tell the wondrous story
How my lost estate to save,
In his boundless love and mercy
He the ransom freely gave. *Chorus*

I will praise my dear Redeemer;
His triumphant power I'll tell,
How the victory he giveth
Over sin, and death, and hell. *Chorus*

I will sing of my Redeemer
And his heav'nly love for me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God, with him to be. *Chorus*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 27

LEADER The LORD is my light and my salvation;

PEOPLE **Whom shall I fear?**

LEADER The LORD is the stronghold of my life;

PEOPLE **Of whom shall I be afraid?**

LEADER One thing have I asked of the LORD,

PEOPLE **That will I seek after:**

LEADER That I may dwell in the house of the LORD

PEOPLE **All the days of my life,**

LEADER To gaze upon the beauty of the LORD

PEOPLE **And to inquire in his temple.**

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Eleanor H. Hull · Tr. Mary E. Byrne · Traditional Irish · Arr. David Allen

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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 Lord, we have sinned against you times without number and have been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find your mind in your word, of neglect to seek you in our daily lives. Our violations and shortcomings present our consciences with a long list of accusations, but, by your grace, they will not stand, for they have all been laid on Christ, our sacrifice and advocate. Go on to subdue our weaknesses and selfishness, granting us grace to live above them. Let us not be mastered by them, but may you rule over us in liberty and power. Deliver us from every evil habit, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, everything that prevents us from taking our deepest delight in you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

John 7:37-38

Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

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

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*

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

No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus

Steffany Gretzinger · Jason Ingram · Dante Bowe · Chandler Moore

If my heart could tell a story,
If my life would sing a song,
If I have a testimony,
If I have anything at all.

*No one ever cared for me like Jesus.
His faithful hand has held me all this way.
And when I'm old and grey,
And all my days
Are numbered on the earth,
Let it be known, in you alone
My joy was found.*

Let my children tell their children,
Let this be their memory,
That all my treasure was in heaven,
And you were everything to me. *Chorus*

I'm still in love.
You're still enough for me,
Still all I want.
You're still my everything. *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

Luke 10:38-42

The passage can be found on page 869 of the pew Bible.

³⁸Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴²but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

SERMON

***Questions for Jesus* | "Lord, don't you care?"**

Rev. John Yates III

REV. JOHN YATES'S BIO

John Yates has served as Rector of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Raleigh, NC, since 2010. John is married to Alysia, and they have four kids between the ages of 16 and 23. After graduating from the University of Virginia, John spent the next four years working for the well-known pastor-theologian John Stott in London and completing a Master's degree in theology at King's College. After marrying Alysia in 2000, they attended seminary together at Trinity Anglican Seminary in Pennsylvania where John received an MDiv and Alysia completed a Master's degree in Church History while also bearing their first child! John continued his studies by completing a PhD in New Testament at Cambridge University in England. In addition to their ministry at Holy Trinity, Alysia serves on staff at the NC State Study Center where she and John enjoy encouraging college students in their relationship with Christ.

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

Goodness of God

CeCe Winans · Ben Fielding · Brian Johnson · Edward Martin Cash · Jason Ingram · Jenn Johnson

I love you, Lord,
For your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in your hands.
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

*'Cause all my life you have been faithful,
And all my life you have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

I love your voice.
You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, you are close like no other.
I've known you as a father.
I've known you as a friend.
And I have lived in the goodness of God. *Chorus*

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I surrender now.
I give you everything.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. *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: \$2,417,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$2,323,000