



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“There was something fundamentally anomalous about their gazing up into the sky when they had been commissioned to go to the ends of the earth. It was the earth not the sky which was to be their preoccupation. Their calling was to be witnesses not stargazers. The vision they were to cultivate was not upwards in nostalgia to the heaven which had received Jesus, but outwards in compassion to a lost world which needed him.”

—JOHN STOTT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose never-failing providence governs all things in heaven and earth: we humbly ask you to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us whatever may be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 29:15-28

PSALM: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Doori Na

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Isaac Watts · John Hatton

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
'Til moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

(Added chorus at the 5 p.m. service)
To our King be highest praise,
Rising through eternal days.
Just and faithful he shall reign.
Jesus shall reign!

People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name. *Chorus (5 p.m. only)*

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen! *Chorus (5 p.m. only)*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 47

LEADER Clap your hands, all peoples!

PEOPLE **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

LEADER For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,

PEOPLE **A great king over all the earth.**

LEADER God has gone up with a shout,

PEOPLE **The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

LEADER Sing praises to God, sing praises!

PEOPLE **Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

LEADER For God is the King of all the earth;

PEOPLE **Sing praises with a psalm!**

HYMN

O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Samuel Trevor Francis · Thomas J. Williams

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of thy love,
Leading onward, leading homeward
To thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Spread his praise from shore to shore!
How he loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore!
How he watches o'er his loved ones,
Died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of ev'ry love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'Tis a Heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to thee!

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 God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Luke 24:46-47

Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations.

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

O Praise the Name

Dean Usher · Marty Sampson · Benjamin Hastings

I cast my mind to Calvary,
Where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see his wounds, his hands, his feet.
My Savior on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears,
They laid him down in Joseph's tomb.
The entrance sealed by heavy stone,
Messiah still and all alone.

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God!
O praise his Name forever more!
For endless days we will sing your praise,
O Lord, O Lord our God!*

Then on the third at break of dawn,
The Son of Heaven rose again.
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King! *Chorus*

He shall return in robes of white,
The blazing sun shall pierce the night.
And I will rise among the saints,
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face. *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 - 10 AND 11:30 AM SERVICES

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

Called Me Higher

Leslie Jordan · All Sons & Daughters

I could just sit,
I could just sit and wait for all your goodness,
Hope to feel your presence.
And I could just stay,
I could just stay right where I am and hope to feel you,
Hope to feel something again.

And I could hold on,
I could hold on to who I am and never let you
Change me from the inside.
And I could be safe,
I could be safe here in your arms and never leave home,
Never let these walls down.

*But you have called me higher.
You have called me deeper.
And I'll go where you will lead me, Lord.
You have called me higher.
You have called me deeper.
And I'll go where you lead me, Lord.
Where You lead me,
Where You lead me, Lord.*

And I could hold on,
I could hold on to who I am and never let you
Change me from the inside.
And I could be safe,
I could be safe here in your arms and never leave home,
Never let these walls down. *Chorus*

And I will be yours,
I will be yours for all my life. (3x)
So let your mercy.

And I will be yours, Lord.
And I will be yours for all my life,
So let your mercy light the path before me.

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

Acts 1:6-12

The passage can be found on page 909 of the pew Bible.

“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

SERMON

***Questions for Jesus* | “Will you at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?”**

Rev. John Bourgeois

REV. JOHN BOURGEOIS’S BIO

John Bourgeois is Senior Pastor of West End Community Church (PCA) in Nashville, TN. He holds degrees from Tulane University and Reformed Theological Seminary (Washington, D.C.) and previously served with FOCUS (Fellowship of Christians in Universities and Schools), City Church of Richmond, and Reformed University Fellowship at Wake Forest University. John and his wife have three children and delight in a full table, good books, and the ordinary rhythms of life together as a family.

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

Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)

Paul Baloche · Brenton Brown

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to you.
We turn to you.
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for you.
We long for you.

When we see you
We find strength to face the day.
In your presence all our fears
Are washed away, washed away.

Hosanna, Hosanna!
You are the God who saves us,
Worthy of all our praises.
Hosanna, Hosanna!
Come have your way among us.
We welcome you here, Lord Jesus.

Hear the sound of hearts returning to you.
We turn to you.
In your kingdom broken lives are made new.
You make all things new.

When we see you
We find strength to face the day.
In your presence all our fears
Are washed away, washed away. *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: \$2,465,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$2,275,000