



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

August 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Doubt is not the opposite of faith, nor is it the same as unbelief. Doubt is a state of mind in suspension between faith and unbelief so that it is neither of them wholly and it is each only partly.”

—OS GUINNESS

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we who cannot do anything that is good without you, may in your strength be able to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

PSALM: Psalm 17:1-7, 15

SECOND READING: Romans 9:1-5

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Marta Bagratuni

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm · William M. Runyan

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not; thy compassions, they fail not,
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! *Chorus*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 35

LEADER The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;

PEOPLE **The desert shall rejoice and blossom like the
crocus;**

LEADER It shall blossom abundantly

PEOPLE **And rejoice with joy and singing.**

LEADER Strengthen the weak hands,

PEOPLE **And make firm the feeble knees.**

LEADER Behold, your God;

PEOPLE **He will come and save you.**

LEADER Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

PEOPLE **And the ears of the deaf unstopped;**

LEADER Then shall the lame man leap like a deer,

PEOPLE **And the tongue of the mute sing for joy.**

LEADER For waters break forth in the wilderness,

PEOPLE **And streams in the desert.**

HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Aaron Sensman · Arr. Dr. Seth Ward

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My Great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

My Gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of thy name.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin,
He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

Look unto him, ye nations, own
Your God, ye fallen race;
Look, and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My Great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!

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

O Lord our God, you know us better than we know ourselves. As we come before you now, believers and doubters alike, we all share a deep need, for we are all lost without your grace. Search us, O God, and know our hearts, test us and know our troubled thoughts. Give us true repentance. Forgive us all our wrongs. Transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day and to learn to serve each other, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Ephesians 1:7

In Jesus Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

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

Come As You Are

Ben Glover · Matt Maher · David Crowder

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been.
Come broken-hearted, let rescue begin.
Come find your mercy, oh sinner, come kneel:
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

*So, lay down your burdens, lay down your shame,
All who are broken, lift up your face.
Wanderer, come home; you're not too far.
So, lay down your hurt, lay down your heart,
Come as you are.*

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed.
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace.
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure. *Chorus*

There's joy for the morning; oh sinner be still.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

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 - 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

Lord From Sorrow's Deep I Call (Psalm 42)

Matt Boswell · Matt Papa

Lord, from sorrows deep I call
When my hope is shaken;
Torn and ruined from the fall,
Hear my desperation.

For so long I've pled and prayed,
"God, come to my rescue!"
Even so, the thorn remains;
Still my heart will praise you.

Storms within my troubled soul,
Questions without answers;
On my faith these billows roll
God be now my shelter.

Why are you cast down my soul?
Hope in him who saves you.
When the fires have all grown cold,
Cause this heart to praise you.

Should my life be torn from me,
Every worldly pleasure;
When all I possess is grief,
God be then my treasure.

Be my vision in the night;
Be my hope and refuge.
'Til my faith is turned to sight,
Lord, my heart will praise you.

Oh, my soul, put your hope in God,
My help, my rock, I will praise him.
Sing, oh sing, through the raging storm;
You're still my God, my salvation.

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

Matthew 11:1-11

The passage can be found on page 816 of the pew Bible.

¹When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

SERMON

***Questions for Jesus* | “Are you the one who is to come?”**

Rev. Brent Harriman

REV. BRENT HARRIMAN’S BIO

Brent is a native of Memphis, Tennessee and a graduate of The University of Mississippi (BS in Business Management) and Covenant Theological Seminary (M.Div. in Biblical Studies and Counseling). While in St. Louis, he met his wife Emily, who earned a Masters of Arts in Counseling from Covenant. Upon graduation they moved to Knoxville. Brent served with Reformed University Fellowship as a Campus Minister as well as Area Coordinator in the National Office. In January of 2017, they accepted a call to plant Resurrection Pres. in Knoxville. In addition to his duties as Lead Pastor, his ministry interests include international church planting, pastoral well being and making strategic connections among ministry leaders. Brent and Emily have been married since 2002 and have two college-aged children, William and Abigail.

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

This Is Our God

Reuben Morgan

Your grace is enough, more than I need;
At your word I will believe.
I wait for you, draw near again;
Let your spirit make me new.

And I will fall at your feet,
I will fall at your feet,
And I will worship you here.

Your presence in me, Jesus light the way
By the power of your word.
I am restored, I am redeemed;
By your spirit I am free.

And I will fall at your feet,
I will fall at your feet,
And I will worship You here.

*Freely you gave it all for us,
Surrendered your life upon that cross.
Great is the love poured out for all:
This is our God.*

*Lifted on high from death to life,
Forever our God is glorified.
Servant and King rescued the world:
This is our God.*

And I will fall at your feet
We sing I will fall at your feet
And I will worship you here. *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: \$2,493,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$2,247,000