



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PREPARATION

**August 9, 2026**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“None other Lamb, none other Name,  
None other hope in heav’n or earth or sea,  
None other hiding-place from guilt and shame,  
None beside Thee.”

—CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let your merciful ears, Lord God, be open to the prayers of your people; and so that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as will please you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Caroline Cassio*

### 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Canzetta Staton · Louisa M. Stead · William James Kirkpatrick

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take him at his word,  
Just to rest upon his promise,  
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just from sin and self to cease,  
Just from Jesus simply taking  
Life and rest and joy and peace.

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him,  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er.  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus,  
Oh for grace to trust him more.*

Oh how sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to trust his cleansing blood,  
And in simple faith to plunge me,  
'Neath the healing cleansing flood.    *Chorus*

I'm so glad I learned to trust thee,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend.  
And I know that thou art with me,  
Will be with me to the end. *Chorus*

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 73

LEADER Whom have I in heaven but you?

PEOPLE **And there is nothing on earth that I desire  
besides you.**

LEADER My flesh and my heart may fail,

PEOPLE **But God is the strength of my heart and my  
portion forever.**

LEADER For me it is good to be near God;  
I have made the LORD God my refuge,

PEOPLE **That I may tell of all your works.**

# HYMN

## How Firm a Foundation

Traditional American

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word.  
What more can he say, than to you he hath said;  
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, oh be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid.  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.”

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes.  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”

## **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, no day of my life has passed that has not proved me guilty in your sight. Prayers have been uttered from a prayerless heart. Praise has often been praiseless sound. My best services are filthy rags. Yet, Lord Jesus, though my sins rise to heaven, your merits soar above them. Grant me to hear your voice assuring me that by your stripes I am healed, that you were bruised for my iniquities, that you have been made sin for me that I might be righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness I may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commands. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## 1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

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

## Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me

Michael Farren · Rich Thompson · Jonny Robinson

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer.  
There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,  
For my life is wholly bound to his.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine."  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken,  
For by my side, the Savior he will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,  
For in my need, his power is displayed.

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me.  
Through the deepest valley, he will lead.  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome,  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.  
The future sure, the price it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,  
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated.  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free,"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.



With every breath I long to follow Jesus,  
For he has said that he will bring me home.  
And day by day I know he will renew me,  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus.  
All the glory evermore to him,  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat,  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

# 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](http://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](http://centralchurchnyc.org/give).*

# OFFERTORY

## Nothing to Fear

Paul Zach · Audrey Assad · Isaac Wardell

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,  
And the depths of the river shall not overwhelm.  
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned.  
I am the Lord, I am the Lord.

*And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear.  
There is nothing to fear, nothing to fear.  
For I am with you always.*

In the depths of your sorrow, I wept beside you.  
When you walked through the shadow, I drew you near.  
And yesterday, today, tomorrow, always the same,  
I am the Lord, I am the Lord.   *Chorus*

What can separate you from my perfect love?  
What can separate you from my perfect love?  
What can separate you from my perfect love?  
Do not fear.  
Do not fear.  
Do not fear.

# 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 6:60-71

The passage can be found on page 892 of the pew Bible.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup>And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup>and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of

God.” <sup>70</sup>Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” <sup>71</sup>He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

## SERMON

### ***Questions for Jesus* | “Lord, to whom shall we go?”**

Rev. Sandy Willson

## REV. SANDY WILLSON’S BIO

*Sanders L. (Sandy) Willson is Pastor Emeritus at Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee, where he served for 22 years. He previously pastored Memorial Presbyterian Church in Elizabethton, Tennessee and Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church in Lookout Mountain, Tennessee and has served two churches as interim senior pastor and recently as Interim President of The Gospel Coalition. Sandy and Allison, have been married 53 years and are deeply grateful for their five children, three daughters-in-law, two sons-in-law, and fourteen grandchildren.*

# 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

## Behold (Then Sings My Soul)

Joel Houston

Behold the Father's heart, the mystery he lavishes on us.  
As deep cries out to deep, oh how desperately he wants us!  
The things of earth stand next to him like a candle to the sun.  
Unfailing Father, what compares to his great love?

Behold his holy Son, the Lion and the Lamb given to us.  
The Word became a man that my soul should know its Savior.  
Forsaken for the sake of all mankind, salvation is in his blood.  
Jesus, Messiah, the Righteous died for love.  
It wasn't over, for he is the Risen One.

*Then sings my soul, then sings my soul,  
How great your love is, how great your love is.*

Behold, I have a Friend, the Spirit, breathing holy fire within.  
My ever present help, speaking truth when I can't find it.  
Light up this broken heart and light my way,  
Until my time on earth is done.  
Oh Holy Spirit, breathe in me like kingdom come.  
Oh Holy Spirit, let your work in me be done.   *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](http://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](mailto: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: \$2,565,000**

**2026 Remaining Need: \$2,175,000**