



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

IT SEEMS THAT ALL MY BRIDGES HAVE BEEN BURNED,
BUT YOU SAY THAT’S EXACTLY HOW THIS GRACE THING WORKS.
IT’S NOT THE LONG WALK HOME THAT WILL CHANGE THIS HEART,
BUT THE WELCOME I RECEIVE WITH THE RESTART.

—MUMFORD AND SONS

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, grant that we may grow in faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promised, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-14

PSALM: Psalm 149

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Ben Sellick

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander · Catherine Winkworth · Christy Nockels

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!
O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
Praise him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth.
Shelters thee under his wings, yea so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

(Added chorus at the 5 p.m. service)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If in his love he befriend thee. *Chorus (5 p.m. only)*

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
Gladly, for aye, we adore him. *Chorus (5 p.m. only)*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95

LEADER Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

PEOPLE **Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

LEADER Let us come before him with thanksgiving,

PEOPLE **And extol him with music and song.**

LEADER For the LORD is the great God, the great King
above all gods.

PEOPLE **In his hands are the depths of the earth, and
the mountain peaks belong to him.**

LEADER The sea is his, for he made it,

PEOPLE **And his hands formed the dry land.**

LEADER Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel
before the LORD our Maker;

PEOPLE **For he is our God and we are the people of his
pasture, the flock under his care.**

HYMN

My Jesus I Love Thee

William R. Featherston · Adoniram J. Gordon

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
For thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou has first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say when the deathdew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

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

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have trusted in our own goodness and believed ourselves deserving of your favor. We have compared ourselves with others, envied the gifts you have given them, and begrudged the generosity of your grace. We have forgotten that all we have comes from your hand, and that we stand before you only by your mercy. Forgive us, Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Free us from pride and envy, teach us to rejoice in your goodness to others, and make us grateful recipients of your grace; that we may delight in your mercy and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

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

Heal Us

William Cowper · Kevin Twit · Lucas Morton

*Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are.
We long to feel thy touch.
Deep wounded souls to thee we fly.
O Savior, hear our cry.*

Our faith is feeble, we confess.
We faintly trust thy word.
But will you pity us the less?
Be that far from you Lord!

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief,
“Lord, I believe,” with tears he cried.
“O help my unbelief!” *Chorus*

She, too, who touched you in the press,
And healing virtue stole
Was answered, “Daughter, go in peace.
Thy faith has made thee whole.”

Like her, with hopes and fears we come.
To touch you if we may,
O send us not despairing home.
Send none unhealed away. *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 - 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

Even Unto Death

Audrey Assad · Matt Maher

Jesus,
The very thought of you,
It fills my heart with love.
Jesus,
You burn like wildfire,
And I am overcome.

*Lover of my soul,
Even unto death,
With my every breath, I will love you.
Lover of my soul,
Even unto death,
With my every breath, I will love you.*

Jesus,
You are my only hope,
And you, my prize shall be.
Jesus,
You are my glory now
And in eternity. *Chorus*

In my darkest hour,
In humiliation,
I will wait for you.
I am not forsaken.
Oh, I lose my life.
Oh, my breath be taken.
I will wait for you.
I am not forsaken.
One thing I desire,
To see you in your beauty.

You are my delight.
Yeah, you are my only.
You have sacrificed.
Oh, your love is all consuming.
You are my delight.
Yeah, you are my glory.
Oh, you are my glory.
Oh, you are my glory. *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 - 10 AND 11:30 AM SERVICES

John 21:15-24

The passage can be found on pages 907-908 of the pew Bible.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.”¹⁹ (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

²⁰Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?”²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?”²² Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!”²³ So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”

²⁴This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.”

SERMON - 10 AND 11:30 AM SERVICES

***Questions for Jesus* | “What about this man?”**

Rev. Andrew Smith

SCRIPTURE READING - 5 PM SERVICE

John 16:16-24

The passage can be found on pages 902-903 of the pew Bible.

¹⁶“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. ²³In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

SERMON - 5 PM SERVICE

Questions for Jesus | “What does he mean by ‘a little while’?”

Robert Cone

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

Jesus, Thank You

Pat Sczebel

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend,
The agonies of Calvary.
You, the perfect Holy One, crushed your Son,
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me.

Your blood has washed away my sin.

Jesus, thank you.

The Father's wrath, completely satisfied.

Jesus, thank you.

Once your enemy, now seated at your table.

Jesus, thank you.

By your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near.
Your enemy you've made your friend.
Pouring out the riches of your glorious grace,
Your mercy and your kindness know no end. *Chorus*

Lover of my soul,
I want to live for you. *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: \$2,750,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$1,990,000