



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"The *point* of the church...is to be the advance sign to the world of the new creation, the new heaven-and-earth reality, which God plans to make All our worship, work, unity, holiness, suffering, and spiritual warfare - to sum up the rest of the letter - is designed, not so that we can keep our noses clean while awaiting an other-worldly salvation, but so that even in the present time...we might live for the praise of his glory."

—N. T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, let your continual pity cleanse and defend your church, and because it cannot continue in safety without your aid, keep it evermore by your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-15

PSALM: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Doori Na

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

John Newton · Kevin Twit · Jason Hardy

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

Blessed inhabitants of Zion,
Washed in the Redeemer's blood;
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
Makes them kings and priests to God.
'Tis his love his people raises,
Over self to reign as kings.
And as priests his solemn praises
Each for a thank offering bring.

Savior, if of Zion's city,
I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy Name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show.
Solid joys and lasting treasures,
None but Zion's children know.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 105

LEADER Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

PEOPLE **Make known his deeds among the peoples!**

LEADER Sing to him, sing praises to him;

PEOPLE **Tell of all his wondrous works!**

LEADER Glory in his holy name;

PEOPLE **Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

LEADER He spread a cloud for a covering,

PEOPLE **And fire to give light by night.**

LEADER For he remembered his holy promise,

PEOPLE **And Abraham, his servant.**

LEADER So he brought his people out with joy,

PEOPLE **His chosen ones with singing.**

LEADER And he gave them the lands of the nations,

PEOPLE **That they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.**

HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

William Williams · Cwm Rhondda

Guide me, O thou Great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of Heaven, bread of Heaven,
Feed me 'til I want no more;
Feed me 'til I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Bear me through the swelling current,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give 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 and merciful Father, you have redeemed us through your Son and given us your Spirit to dwell within us. Yet, like your people in the wilderness, we forget your faithfulness, grumble against your provision, and seek security in the things of this world. Forgive us for doubting your presence and resisting your leading. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, and fix our hope upon the inheritance you have promised, the new creation in which righteousness dwells; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

God Is for Us

Michael Farren · Rich Thompson · Jonny Robinson · Jesse Reeves · James Tealey · James Ferguson · Tiarne Tranter

We won't fear the battle.
We won't fear the night.
We will walk the valley, with you by our side.
You will go before us.
You will lead the way.
We have found a refuge, only you can save.

*Sing with joy now: our God is for us.
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress.
Raise your voice now, no love is greater.
Who can stand against us if our God is for us.*

Even when I stumble,
Even when I fall,
Even when I turn back, still your love is sure.
You will not abandon.
You will not forsake.
You will cheer me onward with never-ending grace. *Chorus*

Neither height nor depth can separate us.
Hell and death will not defeat us.
He who gave his Son to free us
Holds me in his love. *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.

WELCOMING OF NEW STAFF MEMBERS - 9:30 AND 11 AM SERVICES

Jane-Murry Hartch
Gabe Jasso

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

Another in the Fire

Chris Davenport · Joel Houston

There's a grace when the heart is under fire,
Another way when the walls are closing in.
And when I look at the space between
Where I used to be and this reckoning,
I know I will never be alone.

*There was another in the fire standing next to me.
There was another in the waters, holding back the seas.
And should I ever need reminding of how I've been set free,
There is a cross that bears the burden where another died for me.*

All my debt left for dead beneath the waters,
I'm no longer a slave to my sin anymore.
And should I fall in the space between
What remains of me and this reckoning,
Either way I won't bow
To the things of this world.
And I know I will never be alone.

*There is another in the fire standing next to me.
There is another in the waters, holding back the seas.
And should I ever need reminding what power set me free,
There is a grave that holds no body, and now that power lives in me.*

And I can see the light in the darkness
As the darkness bows to him.
I can hear the roar in the heavens
As the space between wears thin.
I can feel the ground shake beneath us
As the prison walls cave in.
Nothing stands between us.
Nothing stands between us.

There is no other name
But the Name that is Jesus,
He who was and still is
And will be through it all.
So come what may in the space between
All the things unseen and this reckoning,
I know I will never be alone.

*There'll be another in the fire standing next to me.
There'll be another in the waters, holding back the seas.
And should I ever need reminding how good you've been to me,
I'll count the joy come every battle, 'cause I know that's where
you'll be.*

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

Ephesians 1:11-14

The passage can be found on page 976 of the pew Bible.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

SERMON

***The World God Is Making* | What are we waiting for?**

Rev. Jason Harris

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

House of the Lord

Jonathan Smith · Phil Wickham

We worship the God who was.
We worship the God who is.
We worship the God who evermore will be.
He opened the prison doors.
He parted the raging sea.
My God, he holds the victory.

*There's joy in the house of the Lord.
There's joy in the house of the Lord today.
And we won't be quiet;
We shout out your praise!
There's joy in the house of the Lord.
Our God is surely in this place.
And we won't be quiet;
We shout out your praise!*

We sing to the God who heals.
We sing to the God who saves.
We sing to the God who always makes a way.
'Cause he hung up on that cross,
Then he rose up from that grave.
My God's still rolling stones away. *Chorus*

We were the beggars,
Now we're royalty.
We were the prisoners,
Now we're running free.
We are forgiven, accepted,
Redeemed by his grace.
Let the house of the Lord sing praise. *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: \$2,849,000 (60.1%)

2026 Remaining Need: \$1,891,000 (39.9%)

YEAR-END GENEROSITY

As we approach the end of 2026, we encourage you to prayerfully consider building into your financial plan a year-end gift to Central that is above and beyond your regular giving. Nonprofit organizations (churches included) tend to raise 30% or more of their annual operating income during the last quarter of the year, so we invite you to play a part in helping us reach and even exceed our remaining need.