



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

September 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"To the naked eye, it doesn't look as if Jesus is now in charge. That's why the eyes of our hearts need to be enlightened. God has raised Jesus from the dead and exalted him as world ruler at his right hand...The spirit-enabled messianic work is to be carried forward, not just through the church's proclamation, but through its very existence as a multicultural unity, the sign of peace and hope for a confused and violent world."

—N. T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, we pray that your grace may always uphold and encourage us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

PSALM: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Marta Bagratuni

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Charles Wesley · John Darwall

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore!
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and Heav'n.
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge shall come,
And take his servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 2, 8, 110

LEADER Why do the nations rage
 And the peoples plot in vain?

PEOPLE **He who sits in the heavens laughs;
 The LORD holds them in derision.**

LEADER The LORD says,
 “As for me, I have set my King
 on Zion, my holy hill.”

PEOPLE **The LORD says to my LORD:
 “Sit at my right hand,
 until I make your enemies your footstool.”**

LEADER O LORD, our LORD,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!

PEOPLE **You have given him dominion over the
 works of your hands;
 you have put all things under his feet.**

HYMN

O Worship the King

Robert Grant · William Gardiner

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing his wonderful love.
Our shield and defender, the ancient of days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, and sing of his grace,
Whose robe is the light and canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

*Love lifted me, love lifted me.
When nothing else could help, love lifted me.
Love lifted me, love lifted me.
When nothing else could help, love lifted me.*

O measureless might, ineffable love,
While angels delight to worship above.
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend. *Chorus*

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 God, you have raised Jesus from the dead and seated him above every power, yet we often live as though fear, suffering, and the powers of this world were ultimately in control. Forgive us for trusting our own wisdom, seeking hope in lesser things, and failing to reflect the grace of your kingdom. Open the eyes of our hearts to see Jesus as he truly is: risen, reigning, and present with his people. Fill us with your Spirit that our lives may display the hope of the world you are making, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 Peter 1:3-4

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

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

Ancient of Days

Jesse Reeves · Michael Farren · Rich Thompson · Jonny Robinson

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall,
There is still one King reigning over all.
So I will not fear, for this truth remains,
That my God is the Ancient of Days.

*None above him, none before him,
All of time in his hands.
For his throne, it shall remain and ever stand.
All the power, all the glory,
I will trust in his name.
For my God is the Ancient of Days.*

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul,
He is here with me, I am not alone.
Oh, his love is sure, and he knows my name,
For my God is the Ancient of Days. *Chorus*

Though I may not see what the future brings,
I will watch and wait for the Savior King.
Then my joy complete, standing face to face,
In the presence of the Ancient of Days. *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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 9:30 A.M. SERVICE

Eloise Seymour Brown
Daughter of Dane & Emily Brown

Baptismal Vows

- 1 Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2 Do you claim God's covenant promises on her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for Eloise's salvation, as you do for your own?
- 3 Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the truths of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring Eloise up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Dane and Emily in the Christian nurture of their child?

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS - 11 AM SERVICE

Annabelle Han Bao, Emma Bennett, Jamie Bennett,
Cameron Cannon, Jackson Cannon, Anna Banks Cleveland,
Sophia Gallo, Tatiana Mandis, Cheney Zimmerman,
Harry Zimmerman

Membership Vows

- 1 Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in God's sight and without hope for your salvation except through his sovereign mercy?
- 2 Do you believe in the Lord Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
- 3 Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
- 4 Do you promise to serve Christ and His church by supporting this congregation in its worship of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?
- 5 Do you promise to accept the spiritual guidance of the church, to walk in a spirit of Christian love with this congregation, and to seek those things that make for unity, purity and peace?

Congregational Vow

Will you, the members of this congregation and witnesses of these vows, acting on behalf of yourself and as representatives of the whole body of Christ, do everything within your power to encourage these new members to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

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

Christ Is All in All

Ben Shive · Dwan Hill · Kristyn Getty

Sons and daughters of the King,
Rise up and sing
That Christ is all in all.
Praise the glories of his name.
Together proclaim
That Christ is all in all.

Brothers, sisters built upon
This cornerstone,
For Christ is all in all.
Worship him with hearts renewed
In spirit and truth,
For Christ is all in all.

*See how he loves us,
Children of God.
Now let us love each other.
If he has called us
Children of God,
That's who we are,
His chosen and beloved.*

Bound together by his blood,
Rooted in love,
Where Christ is all in all.
Standing in one Faith, one Lord,
One holy accord,
Where Christ is all in all. *Chorus*

Look at what the Lord has done,
Made us one by the blood of Jesus.
Look at what the Lord has done.
Now we love with the love of Jesus. *Chorus*

Sons and daughters of the King,
Rise up and sing
That Christ is all in all.

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 1:15-23

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

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

SERMON

The World God Is Making | What do we need to see?

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

Christ Be Magnified

Cody Carnes

Were creation suddenly articulate
With a thousand tongues to lift one cry,
Then from north to south and east to west,
We'd hear Christ be magnified.

Were the whole earth echoing his eminence,
His name would burst from sea and sky.
From rivers to the mountaintops,
We'd hear Christ be magnified.

*O Christ be magnified.
Let his praise arise.
Christ be magnified in me,
O Christ be magnified.
From the altar of my life,
Christ be magnified in me.*

When every creature finds its inmost melody
And every human heart its native cry,
O then in one enraptured hymn of praise
We'll sing Christ be magnified. *Chorus*

I won't bow to idols.
I'll stand strong and worship you.
If it puts me in the fire,
I'll rejoice 'cause you're there too.

I won't be formed by feelings.
I hold fast to what is true.
If the cross brings transformation,
Then I'll be crucified with you.

Death is just the doorway
Into resurrection life.
If I join you in your sufferings,
Then I'll join you when you rise.

And when you return in glory
With all the angels and the saints,
My heart will still be singing
And my song will be the same. *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: \$2,884,000 (60.8%)

2026 Remaining Need: \$1,856,000 (39.2%)

FEATURED EVENTS

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.



Interested in exploring
membership at Central or just
learning more about the church?

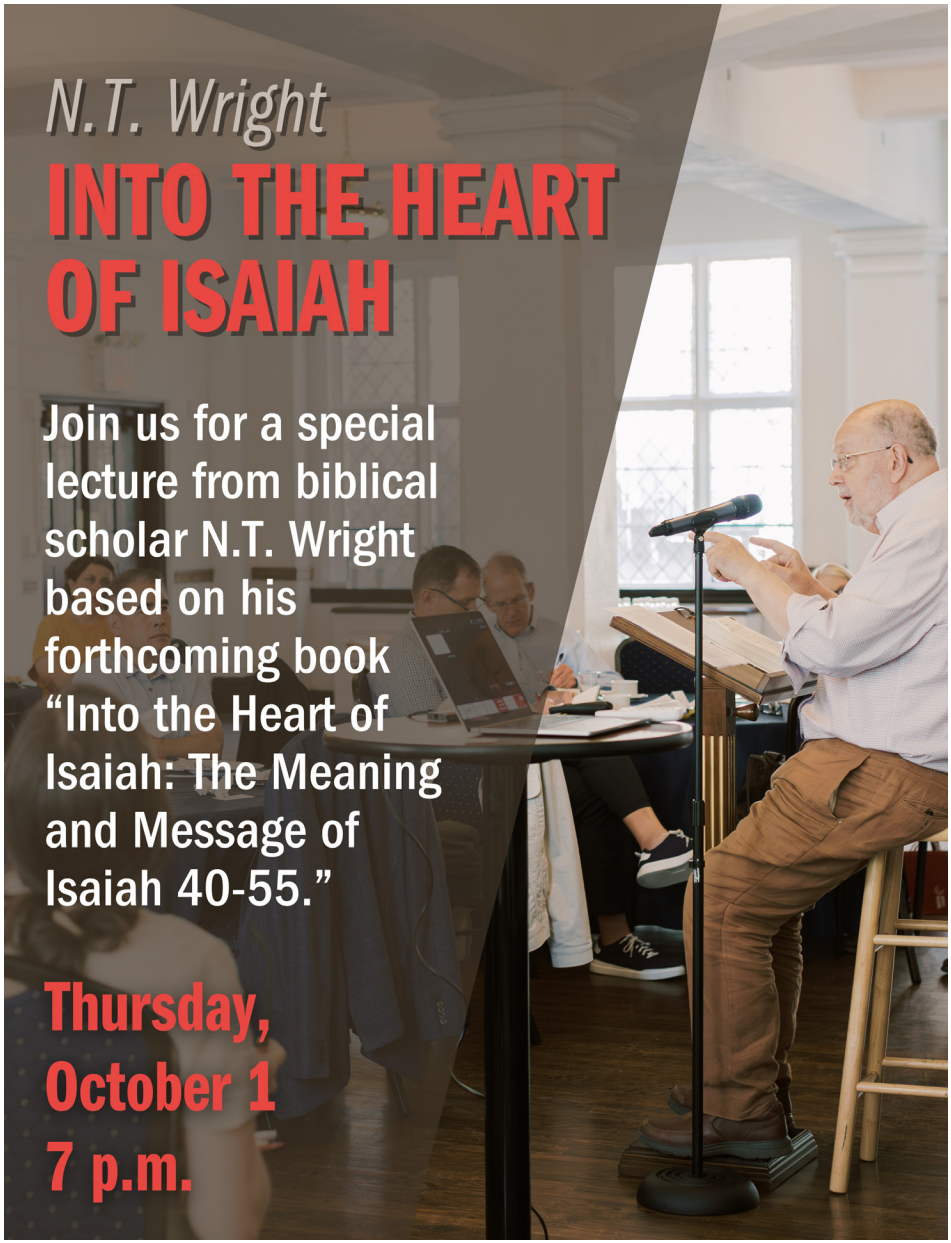
Discovery and Foundations



Today, Sunday 9/27
1-4 p.m.
Seventh floor

Grab food from the sixth
floor and come learn
about the mission,
values, and ministry
philosophy of Central.





N.T. Wright

INTO THE HEART OF ISAIAH

Join us for a special
lecture from biblical
scholar N.T. Wright
based on his
forthcoming book
“Into the Heart of
Isaiah: The Meaning
and Message of
Isaiah 40-55.”

**Thursday,
October 1
7 p.m.**

TRUTH MATTERS: FRUITFUL DISAGREEMENT IN AN AGE OF DIVISION



Robert George and Cornel West are an ideological odd couple who are brothers in Christ and share a passion for the pursuit of truth. On Friday, October 2 at 6 p.m. pastor Jason Harris will ask them specific questions regarding how to develop robust conceptions of the truth, goodness, justice, and beauty while being a neighbor divided world.