



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

October 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"Paul has stressed again and again that the point of the new exodus is that we — we believers, we little Christian groups, we often muddled and anxious Jesus-followers — should here and now live for God's praise and glory. We are his artwork, his poiema. It is through the church that God's richly varied wisdom is to be made known to the principalities and powers that still try to pretend they run this world."

—N. T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, give your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

PSALM: Psalm 19

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Ben Sellick

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Henry Francis Lyte · John Goss

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor
To his people in distress.
Praise him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Fatherlike, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 147

LEADER Praise the LORD!
 For it is good to sing praises to our God;

PEOPLE **For it is pleasant, and a song of praise is
fitting.**

LEADER He heals the brokenhearted

PEOPLE **And binds up their wounds.**

LEADER He determines the number of the stars;

PEOPLE **He gives to all of them their names.**

LEADER Great is our LORD, and abundant in power;

PEOPLE **His understanding is beyond measure.**

HYMN

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Samuel Trevor Francis · Thomas J. Williams

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of thy love,
Leading onward, leading homeward
To thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Spread his praise from shore to shore!
How he loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore!
How he watches o'er his loved ones,
Died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of ev'ry love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'Tis a Heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up 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

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

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

The Love of God

Jesse Reeves · Michael Farren · Rich Thompson · Jonny Robinson

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave his Son to win;
His erring child, he reconciled
And pardoned from his sin.

*Oh love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song.*

Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky. *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

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

Love of God

Phil Wickham · Cody Carnes · Benjamin William Hastings · Brandon Lake

It's so good I almost can't believe it,
Far beyond what hearts could ever dream.
The God who set the galaxies in motion
Would descend to give his life for me.

For what could make perfection bleed for sinners?
What leads a King to pay so great a cost?
All my life, my heart will sing the answer:
Only the love of God.

*Singing oh, how great is the love of God.
He paid our debt on that rugged cross.
For all our days, we will sing our Savior's praise.
How great is the love of God.*

It's so kind, it leads us to repentance,
And it's so bright, the darkness has to flee.
Hallelujah, it cleared my guilty sentence,
For I was bound but now I stand redeemed.

For what could break the chains of any prison?
What force could rob the power from the grave?
What would trade my rags for heaven's riches?
Only the love of God. *Chorus*

Though I try, my mind can't comprehend it.
It's so high, too marvelous for words.
I could sing a million songs about it,
And barely scratch the surface of your worth.

This all my life, the banner I'll be waving,
My anthem cry no matter what may come.
And when I rise to walk the streets of Heaven,
I'll still be singing this song.
For everything that you've done,
How great the love of God. *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 - 9:30 AND 11 AM SERVICES

Ephesians 3:14-21

The passage can be found on page 977 of the pew Bible.

¹⁴Because of this, I am kneeling down before the father, ¹⁵the one who gives the name of “family” to every family that there is, in heaven and on earth. ¹⁶My prayer is this: that he will lay out all the riches of his glory to give you strength and power, through his spirit, in your inner being; ¹⁷that the Messiah may make his home in your hearts, through faith; that love may be your root, your firm foundation; ¹⁸and that you may be strong enough (with all God’s holy ones) to grasp the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the Messiah’s love—though actually it’s so deep that nobody can really know it! So may God fill you with all his fullness.

²⁰So: to the one who is capable of doing far, far more than we can ask or imagine, granted the power which is working in us— ²¹to him be glory, in the church, and in Messiah Jesus, to all generations, and to the ages of ages! Amen!

(N.T. Wright’s Translation)

SERMON - 9:30 AND 11 AM SERVICES

The World God Is Making | Love Beyond Knowing
Rt. Rev. N. T. Wright

SCRIPTURE READING - 5 PM SERVICE

Acts 20:17-38

The passage can be found on pages 929-930 of the pew Bible.

¹⁷Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be

alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

³⁶And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.)

SERMON - 5 PM SERVICE

***The World God Is Making* | An Earlier Blueprint**

Rev. Andrew Smith

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

Build My Life

Matthew Redman · Kirby Kaple · Brett Younker · Joseph Barrett · Karl Martin

Worthy of every song we could ever sing,
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring,
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for you.
We live for you.

Jesus, the name above every other name.
Jesus, the only one who could ever save.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for you.
We live for you.

*Holy, there is no one like you.
There is none beside you,
Open up my eyes in wonder.
Show me who you are and fill me
With your heart and lead me
In your love to those around me.*

Jesus, the name above every other name.
Jesus, the only one who could ever save.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for you.
We live for you. *Chorus*

I will build my life upon your love.
It is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in you alone,
And I will not be shaken. *Chorus*

Worthy of every song we could ever sing,
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring,
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
We live for you.
We live for you.

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.

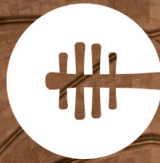
FINANCIAL UPDATE

2026 Projected Expenses: \$4,740,000

Year-to-Date Giving: \$2,948,000 (62.2%)

2026 Remaining Need: \$1,792,000 (37.8%)

FEATURED EVENTS



CENTRAL
CHAMBER
SERIES

“SONGS WITHOUT WORDS”
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
7:30 P.M.

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
CENTRALCHAMBERSERIES.COM

Are you...

New to Central?

*Interested in
meeting staff
and other
church leaders?*

*Looking for a
way to connect
with people in a
more intimate
setting?*



*Welcome
Reception*

**Thursday, October 8
6:30-8 p.m.**

centralchurcnyc.org/welcomereception



Your Giving at Work: Resound Project

When you give to Central, you support ministry here in New York City and beyond. One important example is Resound Project, an initiative Central launched in 2021 to strengthen churches for a changing world so the gospel might resound to the next generation.

Through Resound, Central invests in pastors, develops emerging leaders, and supports churches nationwide. This weekend, lay leaders have gathered at Central to receive world-class teaching and to encourage one another as they consider ways to better serve their pastors and strengthen their churches.

Your giving makes this work possible, extending the reach of what God is already doing in and through our congregation — investing in leaders and strengthening churches so the gospel can continue to resound in New York City and far beyond.



As we approach the end of 2026, if you are able, please consider supporting Central monthly or making a special year-end gift to Central and its ministries.