



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

October 11, 2026

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"God does not simply leave the world he has created in its desperate plight caused by humanity's sin and rebellion. The Bible which speaks of a world under divine judgment also trumpets forth God's mighty salvation. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is a God who saves, and he has done this in the death and resurrection of his Son."

—PETER T. O'BRIEN

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord God, without you we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct
and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:1-14

PSALM: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Caroline Cassio

Amazing Grace

John Newton · Arr. Chris Tomlin

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear,
And Grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed!

(Chorus at 5 p.m. service only)

*My chains are gone:
I've been set free!
My God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood his mercy reigns;
Unending love, amazing grace.*

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures. *Chorus (5 p.m. service)*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ezekiel 37

LEADER The hand of the LORD was upon me,

PEOPLE **And he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD.**

LEADER And set me down in the middle of the valley;

PEOPLE **It was full of bones. And behold, they were very dry.**

LEADER And he said to me: “Son of man, can these bones live?”

PEOPLE **And I answered, “O LORD God, you know.”**

LEADER “O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.”

PEOPLE **“Thus says the LORD God to these bones:”**

LEADER “Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.”

PEOPLE **“And you shall know that I am the LORD.”**

HYMN

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Rowland H. Prichard · Arr. Robert Harkness

I will sing of my Redeemer
And his wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross he suffered
From the curse to set me free.

*Sing, oh sing, of my Redeemer,
With his blood, he purchased me.
On the cross he sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt, and made me free.*

I will tell the wondrous story
How my lost estate to save,
In his boundless love and mercy
He the ransom freely gave. *Chorus*

I will praise my dear Redeemer;
His triumphant power I'll tell,
How the victory he giveth
Over sin, and death, and hell. *Chorus*

I will sing of my Redeemer
And his heav'nly love for me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God, with him to be. *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

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

Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

His Mercy Is More

Matt Boswell · Matt Papa · Keith Getty · Kristyn Getty

What love could remember no wrongs we have done,
Omniscient, all-knowing, he counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord, his mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam.
What Father so tender is calling us home.
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more. *Chorus*

What riches of kindness he lavished on us.
His blood was the payment, his life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more. *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.

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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

At Central, our mission extends beyond the walls of our church to our neighborhood, our city, and our world. When you give to Central, your giving enables the furthering of every aspect of this mission.

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**](https://centralchurchnyc.org/give).*

OFFERTORY

Redeemed

Howard Benjamin Cowart · Michael David Weaver

Seems like all I could see was the struggle,
Haunted by ghosts that lived in my past,
Bound up in shackles of all my failures,
Wondering how long is this gonna last.
Then you look at this prisoner and say to me “Son,
Stop fighting a fight that’s already been won.”

*I am redeemed; you set me free.
So I’ll shake off these heavy chains,
Wipe away every stain, now I’m not who I used to be.
I am redeemed, I’m redeemed.*

All my life I have been called unworthy,
Named by the voice of my shame and regret.
But when I hear you whisper, “Child lift up your head,”
I remember, oh God, you’re not done with me yet. *Chorus*

Because I don't have to be the old man inside of me,
'Cause his day is long dead and gone.
Because I've got a new name, a new life, I'm not the same,
And a hope that will carry me home. *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

Ephesians 2:1-7

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

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

SERMON

***The World God Is Making* | What can God do with the dead?**

Rev. Twaambo Moyo (9:30 and 11 a.m. services)

Robert Cone (5 p.m. service)

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

This Is Amazing Grace

Phil Wickham · Lecrae Moore · Jeremy Riddle · Joshua Neil Farro

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

*This is amazing grace,
This is unfailing love,
That you would take my place,
That you would bear my cross.
You laid down your life
That I would be set free.
Jesus, I sing for
All that you've done for me.*

Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings. *Chorus*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.

Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.

Worthy, worthy, worthy! *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: \$3,072,000 (64.8%)

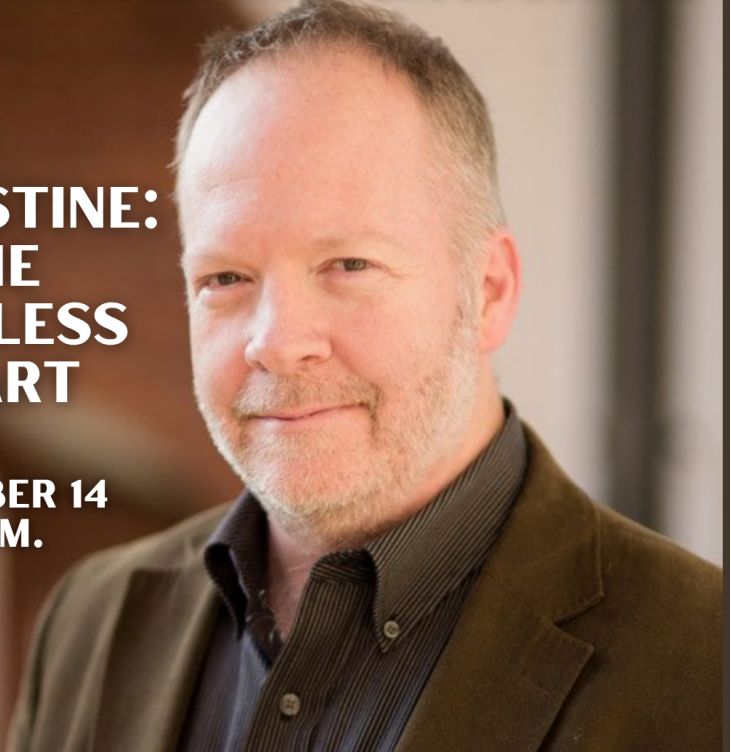
2026 Remaining Need: \$1,668,000 (35.2%)

FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS

YALE DIVINITY PROFESSOR BRUCE GORDON

AUGUSTINE: THE RESTLESS HEART

**OCTOBER 14
7 P.M.**



Augustine begins with longing. Why are we restless? Why do achievement, pleasure, knowledge, even relationships fail to finally satisfy? Come explore how restlessness is the beginning of awakening: the recognition that our desires reach beyond what we presently know how to want.

“WHY BOTHER IF IT’S ALL GOING TO BURN UP ANYWAY?”

A culturally engaged Christian often lives with a nagging question: If the Bible says everything will someday end in fire, then why bother? Why pour our daily lives into business, the arts, government, and all the other areas where we invest our resources and effort? Join us for an examination of what the biblical book of 2 Peter really teaches about the end — one that helps us see why our daily work and efforts do have eternal value.

**DR. BILL
FULLILOVE**



**7 P.M.
OCTOBER 21**



Your Giving at Work: The Bowery Mission

The Bowery Mission creates a transformative community to help people in New York City overcome homelessness and poverty through the love of Jesus.

Central partners with the Bowery by providing a monthly worship service, preparing/serving meals, hosting occasional events, and extending financial support.



As we approach the end of 2026, please consider supporting Central through a monthly donation or a special year-end gift.