



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

October 18, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"We are God's *artwork*. We are God's sculpture, his *poetry*... We are to be Renaissance-people, demonstrating the birth of the new world. And we are not doing this to show God how good we are. That would pull us back into the pagan world of trying to earn divine favor by moral effort. We do it, rather, to display God's creative kindness to the world. It is surprising and delightful, to see how easily a skeptic can be brought round, by observing creative kindness among God's people, to thinking that perhaps the talk of a God — a God like Jesus — might after all be true."

—N.T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and merciful God, of your bountiful goodness, keep us from everything that may hurt us, that we may be ready in body and soul with free hearts to accomplish whatever you want us to do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Exodus 33:12-23

PSALM: Psalm 99

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Rock of Ages

Augustus Toplady · Arr. James Ward

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone,
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress,
Helpless, look to thee for grace:
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

LEADER Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
 Serve the LORD with gladness!

PEOPLE **Come into his presence with singing!**

LEADER Know that the LORD, he is God!
 It is he who made us, and we are his;

PEOPLE **We are his people, and the sheep of his
pasture.**

LEADER Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
 and his courts with praise!

PEOPLE **Give thanks to him; bless his name!**

LEADER For the LORD is good;
 his steadfast love endures forever,

PEOPLE **And his faithfulness to all generations.**

HYMN

Take my Life and Let It Be

Frances Havergal · H. A. César Malan · Chris Tomlin · Louis Giglio

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use ev'ry power as you choose.

(Added chorus at 5 p.m. service)
Here am I, all of me. Take my life, it's all for thee.

Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at your feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be ever, only all for thee. *Chorus (5 p.m. service only)*

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

Merciful Father, we confess that we have wandered from your ways and followed the desires of our own hearts. We have done what we should not have done and neglected the good you have called us to do. We have sought praise for ourselves rather than glory for you. Forgive us for Jesus' sake. Teach us to rest in your grace rather than trust in our achievements. Renew us by your Spirit, and shape us into the likeness of Christ, so that we may gladly walk in the good works you have prepared for us. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!

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

Great Are You, Lord

Jason Ingram · David Leonard · Leslie Jordan

You give life, you are love,
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope, you restore
Every heart that is broken.
And great are you, Lord.

*It's your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise.
It's your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to you only.*

You give life, you are love,
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope, you restore
Every heart that is broken.
And great are you, Lord. *Chorus*

All the earth will shout your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing.
Great are you, Lord. *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

Yamikani James Moyo
Son of Twaambo & Candice Moyo

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 his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for Yamikani'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 him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the truths of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring Yamikani up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 11 AM SERVICE

Caroline Renee Long

Baptism 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 Caroline to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

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 - 5 PM SERVICE

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

Who He Is

Jamie Lyn Macdonald · Andrew Holt · Austin Luke Kaleolanakila Davis

Central Children's and Youth Choirs (9:30 and 11 a.m. services)

*I may not know what's ahead,
But I know who he is.
He is my hope and my defense,
Love that never ends.
That's just who he is.*

He's my anchor in the waves.
He's my healer in the pain.
He's my compass when I can't see the way.
He's my ever-present help in time of need,
My strength when I am weak.
That's the reason I sing. *Chorus*

When my fear's surrounding me
And the shadow's all I see,
He's the light, and he's the lamp to my feet.
He's my ever-present help in time of need,
My strength when I am weak.
That's the reason I sing. *Chorus*

He's never gonna let me go.
And I'm just gonna let you know,
Joy in the morning, peace in the evening,
He's my Savior and my friend.
That's who he is. *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 2:8-10

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

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

SERMON

***The World God Is Making* | Who are we becoming?**

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

Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me

Michael Farren · Rich Thompson · Jonny Robinson

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine."
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Savior he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, his power is displayed.

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley, he will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome,
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free,"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me,
Until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him,
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat,
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

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: \$3,115,000 (65.7%)

2026 Remaining Need: \$1,625,000 (34.3%)

FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your Giving at Work: Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)

RUF is a campus ministry that reaches college students with the hope of Jesus, inviting them to discover the love of Christ, find their significance in God's redemptive story, and engage in the life of his church.

Central partners with RUF and RUF-International by hosting an annual Thanksgiving dinner and by financially supporting ministry leaders.



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

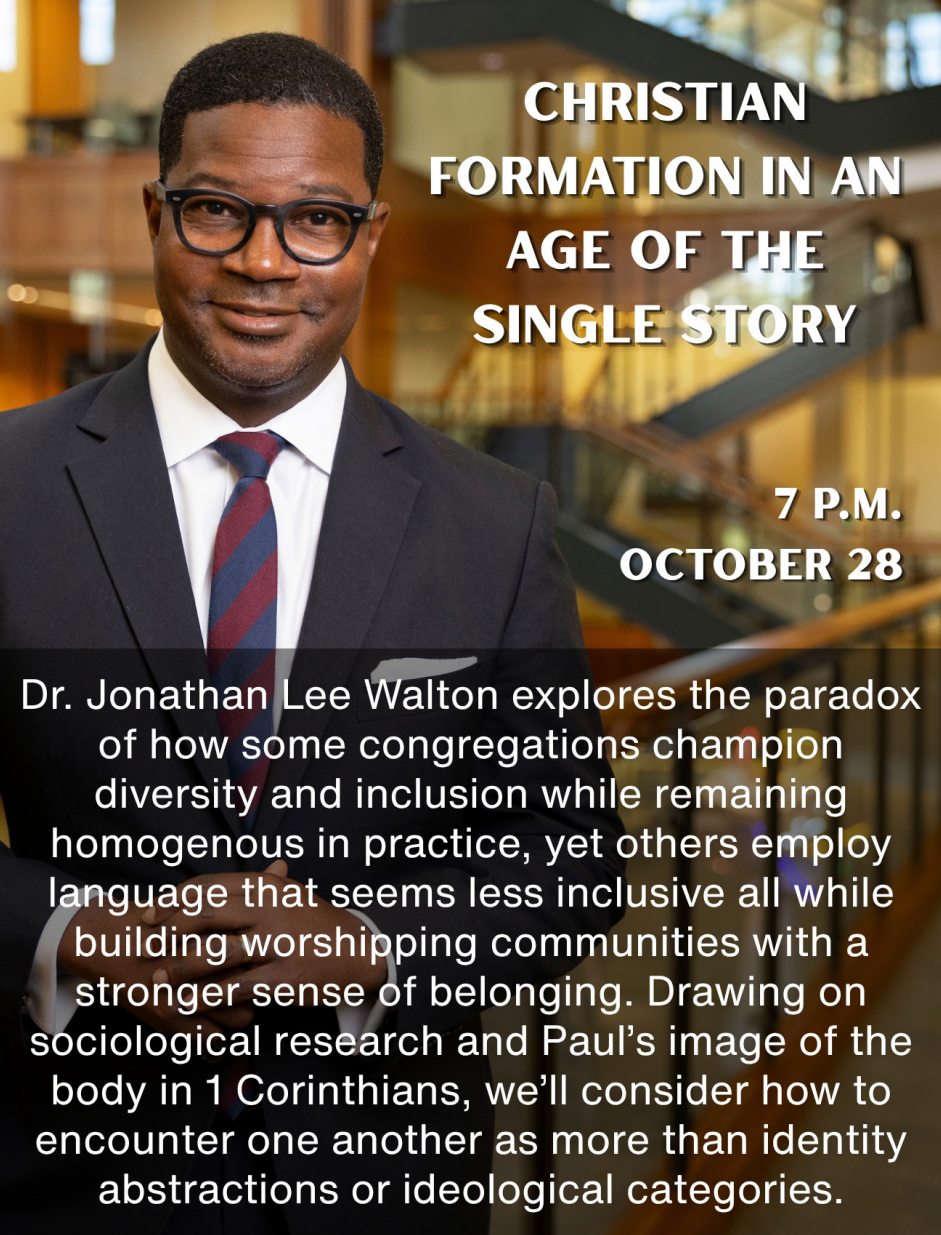
“WHY BOTHER IF IT’S ALL GOING TO BURN UP ANYWAY?”

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**



CHRISTIAN FORMATION IN AN AGE OF THE SINGLE STORY

**7 P.M.
OCTOBER 28**

Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton explores the paradox of how some congregations champion diversity and inclusion while remaining homogenous in practice, yet others employ language that seems less inclusive all while building worshipping communities with a stronger sense of belonging. Drawing on sociological research and Paul's image of the body in 1 Corinthians, we'll consider how to encounter one another as more than identity abstractions or ideological categories.