



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OCTOBER 25, 2026
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION

October 25, 2026

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"There are some things which Scripture tells us to forget (such as the injuries which others do to us). But there is one thing in particular which we are commanded to remember and never to forget. This is what we were before God's love reached down and found us. For only if we remember our former alienation (distasteful as some of it may be to us) shall we be able to remember the greatness of the grace which forgave us and is transforming us."

—JOHN STOTT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm · William M. Runyan · Arr. Shane Corey Barnard

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not; thy compassions, they fail not,
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! *Chorus*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 57

LEADER How beautiful upon the mountains

PEOPLE **Are the feet of him who brings good news,**

LEADER Who publishes peace, who brings good news
of happiness,

PEOPLE **Who publishes salvation,
Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”**

LEADER Break forth together into singing,

PEOPLE **For the LORD has comforted his people;**

LEADER The LORD has bared his holy arm

PEOPLE **Before the eyes of all the nations,**

LEADER And all the ends of the earth shall see

PEOPLE **The salvation of our God.**

HYMN

Before the Throne of God Above

Charitie Lees Bancroft · Vikki Cook

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea.
A great high priest, whose name is Love;
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart.
I know that while in Heaven he stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there,
Who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free.
For God the just is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me.
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great, unchangeable I AM,
The king of glory and of grace.

One with himself, I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by his blood,
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God!
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart.
I know that while in Heaven he stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

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 God, we confess that our sin has estranged us from you. We have resisted your will and sought life apart from you. Yet through the cross and resurrection of your only-begotten Son, you have destroyed death, reconciled us to yourself, and put our enmity to death. You have filled the earth with heavenly peace. Forgive our rebellion, cleanse us from sin, and draw us near by your grace. Grant us the peace that Christ has made, and keep us in the hope of his salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Way Maker

Osinachi Okoro

You are here, moving in our midst.
I worship you. I worship you.
You are here, working in this place.
I worship you. I worship you.

*You are
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper,
Light in the darkness.
My God, that is who you are.*
*You are
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper,
Light in the darkness.
My God, that is who you are.*

You are here, touching every heart.
I worship you. I worship you.
You are here, healing every heart.
I worship you. I worship you.
You are here, turning lives around.
I worship you. I worship you.
You are here, mending every heart.
I worship you. I worship you. *Chorus*

Even when I don't see it, you're working.
Even when I don't feel it, you're working.
You never stop, you never stop working.
You never stop, you never stop working. *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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS - 11 AM SERVICE

Monte & Johanna Fischer

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 Monte and Johanna to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Clark Kelly Badaracco (9:30 AM SERVICE)

Son of Kyle Lee Badaracco & Jennifer Taylor Badaracco

Montgomery Lloyd Fischer, Jr. (11 AM SERVICE)

Son of Montgomery Lloyd Fischer & Johanna Hoover Fischer

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 Clark's/ Montgomery'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 Clark/Montgomery up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Kyle and Jennifer / Monte and Johanna 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.

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

Jesus Lifted Me

Jason Ingram · Logan Cain · Brooke Ligertwood · Taylor Cain Matz · Madison Cain Johnson

*I'm so glad to testify 'bout the one who saved my life.
The power of the blood is the reason I'm alive.
I thank God day and night, I'm not where I used to be.
Glory hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!*

When I was a sinner, Jesus lifted me.
I was a sinner, so blind I could not see.
Before he ever crossed my mind he took the cross for me.
Glory hallelujah, Jesus lifted me! *Chorus*

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
I was in trouble, was sinking down so deep.
Before I'd ever called his name he was calling out to me.
Glory hallelujah, Jesus lifted me! *Chorus*

How could I not lift my hands?
And how could I not lift you high?
How could I not lift my voice to sing?
Glory hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!

I am forgiven.
Jesus, you lifted me.
I am forgiven,
All my sins washed clean.
Because you gave your life for me,
I will give you everything.
Glory hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!
Glory hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!

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 2:11-16

The passage can be found on pages 976-977 of the pew Bible.

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands — ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

SERMON

***The World God Is Making* | How do we fit together?**

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

Thank You Jesus for the Blood

Charity Gayle · John Hart Stockton · Bryan McCleery · David Gentiles · Ryan Kennedy · Steven Musso · Elisha Albright Hoffman

I was a wretch; I remember who I was.
I was lost, I was blind, I was running out of time.

Sin separated; the breach was far too wide.
But from the far side of the chasm, you held me in your sight.

So you made a way across the great divide,
Left behind Heaven's throne to build it here inside.

And there at the cross, you paid the debt I owed,
Broke my chains, freed my soul; for the first time I had hope.

Thank you Jesus for the blood applied.
Thank you Jesus, it has washed me white.
Thank you Jesus, you have saved my life.
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light.

You took my place, laid inside my tomb of sin.
You were buried for three days, but then you walked right
out again.

And now death has no sting, and life has no end,
For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb. *Chorus*

There is nothing stronger
Than the wonder-working power
Of the blood, the blood,
That calls us sons and daughters.
We are ransomed by our Father
Through the blood, the blood. *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: \$3,183,000 (67.2%)

2026 Remaining Need: \$1,557,000 (32.8%)

FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS



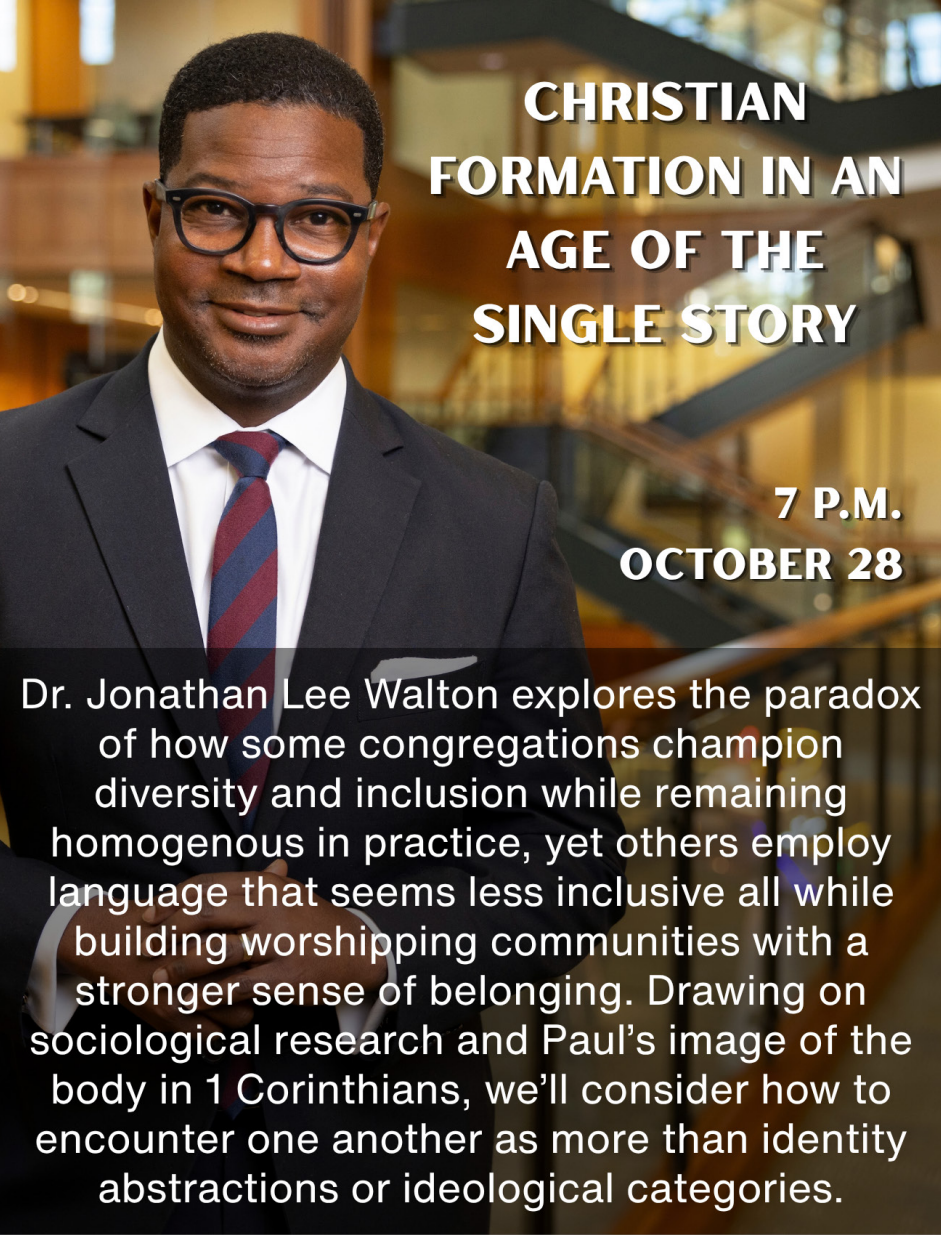
Your Giving at Work: Take Them a Meal

Mission is at the heart of what drives every aspect of our ministry — including our meals ministry! — and everyone at Central is called to participate in God's mission to the world.

Every family at Central with a new baby, every congregant recovering from surgery, every elderly church member who's homebound is not just a need; they are part of the mission! And when you give to Central, you allow us to live on mission by providing for those needs!



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



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.

Parenting with Grace



Few things are more important — or more challenging — than nurturing the spiritual lives of our children, especially while raising them in New York City. Parents of children newborn through high school are invited to join us for a practical and encouraging conversation about how we can help our children grow into lifelong followers of Jesus.

Friday, October 30
7-9 p.m.
Sixth floor