



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 1, 2026
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION

November 1, 2026

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“For now there is a new temple, a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. It is his new society, his redeemed people scattered throughout the inhabited world. They are his home on earth. They will also be his home in heaven. For the building is not yet complete. It rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. Only after the creation of the new heaven and the new earth will the voice from the throne declare with emphatic finality: ‘Look! God’s dwelling-place is now among the people.’”

—JOHN STOTT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Father in heaven, keep your household the church in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and may devoutly serve you in good works to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
Through him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Revelation 7

LEADER After this I looked, and behold, a great
 multitude that no one could number,

PEOPLE **From every nation, tribe, people, and
 language,**

LEADER Standing before the throne and before the
 Lamb,

PEOPLE **Clothed in white robes, with palm branches
 in their hands,**

LEADER And crying out with a loud voice,

PEOPLE **“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on
 the throne, and to the Lamb!”**

LEADER And they fell on their faces before the throne
 and worshiped God, saying,

PEOPLE **“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
 and thanksgiving and honor and power
 and might be to our God forever and ever!
 Amen.”**

HYMN

For All The Saints

William W. How · Ralph Vaughan Williams

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, 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

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. Forgive our indifference to your will. You have commanded us to speak, but we have been silent. You have called us to do what is just, but we have been fearful. Have mercy on us, your faithless servants. Keep before us faithful people for us to follow so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to the praise of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Colossians 1:12-14

The Father...has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

Cornerstone

Edward Mote · Eric Liljero · Jonas Myrin · Reuben Morgan

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord,
Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil. *Chorus*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne! *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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 9:30 AM SERVICE

Kristin Anna Cullen

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - 9:30 AM SERVICE

Evander Peter Cullen

Son of Andrew John Cullen and Kristin Anna Cullen

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 Van'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 Van up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Andrew and Kristin 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 - 11 AM AND 5 PM SERVICES

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

My Soul Will Wait (Psalm 62)

Keaton Bunting · Bob Kauflin

When the enemy surrounds and my heart grows faint within,
When the darkness overwhelms and my fears are pressing in,
I will trust in you, O Lord, in the silence I will wait.
I will stand upon your Word.

*You're my solid rock and my salvation,
My steadfast hope that won't be shaken.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for you.*

You're my stronghold and my shield in the midst of every threat.
Though the wicked never yield, they will vanish like a breath.
Yes, I know the outcome's sure; Satan's evil plans will fail.
In your power I'm secure. *Chorus*

*You're my comfort when I feel forsaken,
My refuge and my sure foundation.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for you.*

This is love I can't explain, this is mercy unreserved.
Through your sacrifice so great, I have peace that's undeserved.
For the battle has been won, and I fear no shame or loss.
Now the sting of death is gone.

Pouring out our hearts before you,
We will trust in you.
Perfect Savior, strong defender,
We will trust in you.

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 2:17-22

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

¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

SERMON

The World God Is Making | Where do we belong?

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

Holy Forever

Jason David Ingram · Brian Johnson · Chris Tomlin · Phil Wickham · Jenn Johnson

A thousand generations falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb.
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.

Your name is the highest.
Your name is the greatest.
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.

*And the angels cry holy.
All creation cries holy.
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy forever.*

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
If you walk in freedom and if you bear his name,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
We'll sing the song forever and amen. *Chorus*

*Hear your people sing holy.
To the King of Kings, holy.
You will always be holy,
Holy forever.*

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: \$3,247,000 (68.5%)

2026 Remaining Need: \$1,493,000 (31.5%)

FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your Giving at Work: Safe Families for Children

Safe Families for Children creates circles of support around vulnerable children and isolated families, empowering parents who otherwise may feel forced to turn to the foster system.



Central partners with Safe Families by hosting their annual Christmas party and other events throughout the ministry year, extending financial support, and even (as of today) supporting their NYC Marathon runners!

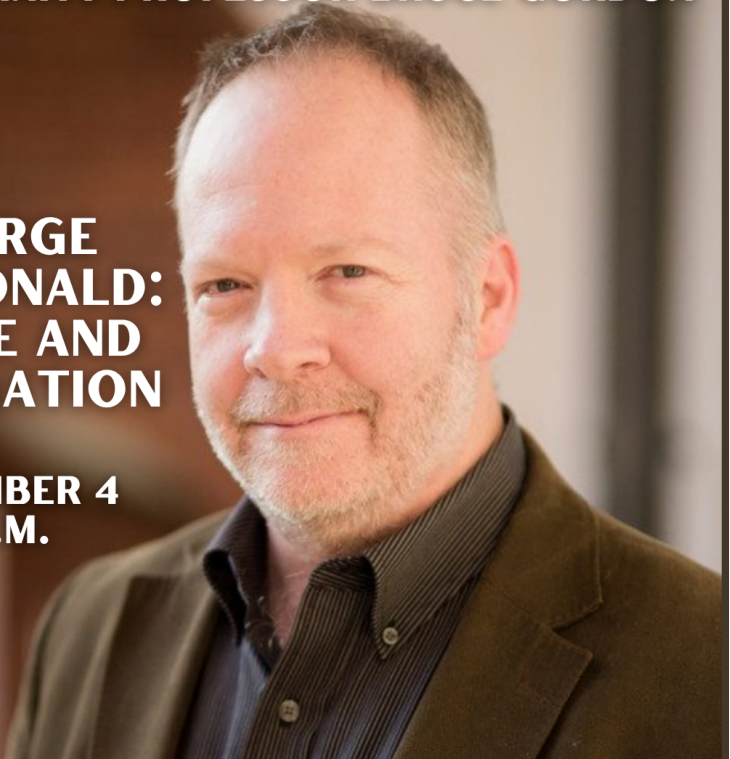
As we approach the end of 2026, please consider supporting Central through a monthly donation or a special year-end gift.



YALE DIVINITY PROFESSOR BRUCE GORDON

**GEORGE
MACDONALD:
DESIRE AND
IMAGINATION**

**NOVEMBER 4
7 P.M.**



We started with Augustine at restlessness. Now, George MacDonald takes us from restlessness to imagination. Bruce Gordon is back to explore how imagination allows us to perceive possibilities that ordinary religious language may no longer make visible.

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

Discovery and Foundations



Sunday, November 8
1-4 p.m.
Seventh floor

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

