

CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 8, 2026
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION

November 8, 2026
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"The church is God's pilot scheme for the reconciled universe of the future."

—F. F. Bruce

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of your Church: and grant that what we ask in faith we may surely obtain; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
PSALM: Psalm 78:1-7
SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges · Godfrey Thring

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed over the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of Heaven, one with the Father known,
One with the Spirit, thro' him giv'n from yonder glorious throne.
To thee be endless praise, for thou for us hast died,
Be thou, oh Lord, thro' endless days, adored and magnified.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Revelation 15

LEADER Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty!

PEOPLE **Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.**

LEADER Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name?

PEOPLE **For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you!**

HYMN

The Power of the Cross

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend · Arr. Dan Galbraith

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day,
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

Oh, to see the pain written on your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,
Crowning your bloodstained brow.

This, the pow'r of the cross.
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath,
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life,
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry. *Chorus*

Oh, to see my name written in your wounds,
For through your suffering, I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through your selfless love.

This, the pow'r of the cross.
Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost,
We stand forgiven at the cross.

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

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we can be more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 John 1:6-7

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

Heal Us

William Cowper · Kevin Twit · Lucas Morton

Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are.
We long to feel thy touch.
Deep wounded souls to thee we fly.
O Savior, hear our cry.

Our faith is feeble, we confess.
We faintly trust thy word.
But will you pity us the less?
Be that far from you Lord!

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief,
"Lord, I believe," with tears he cried.
"O help my unbelief!" *Chorus*

She, too, who touched you in the press,
And healing virtue stole
Was answered, "Daughter, go in peace.
Thy faith has made thee whole."

Like her, with hopes and fears we come.
To touch you if we may,
O send us not despairing home.
Send none unhealed away. *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 AM SERVICE

Santiago Rafael Jasso
Son of Gabriel Anthony Jasso and Ashley Maria Jasso

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

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Gabe and Ashley 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****.*

OFFERTORY - 9:30 AND 11 AM SERVICES

Adoration

Florence B. Price, arr. Elaine Fine

Doori Na, violin

OFFERTORY - 5 PM SERVICE

The One in Whom I Rest

Christina Nichols · Ben Sellick

I have a friend
Who's closer than a brother,
Who loves me like a mother
Loves her child.
And he is good.
He's steady when I falter.
He leads me to the altar
Of his grace.

His name is Jesus, the author of my joy,
The One in whom I rest,
The One in whom I rest.

I know his name.
It's a comfort to the restless.
All his promises are yes,
His Word is true.
He'll never fail you.
He's the end of every sadness,
The beginning of all gladness.
He makes all things new. *Chorus*

He knows me completely,
Knows exactly what I need.
I will not worry,
For he'll never leave me.
Knows me completely,
Knows exactly what I need.
Knows me completely
and loves me still.

Come as you are
With your hopes and your sorrows,
And all your tomorrows
Will be redeemed.
Bring all your cares,
Bring the weight that you carry
To the sanctuary
Of his peace. *Chorus*

Oh what a friend in Jesus,
What a friend I have.

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 3:1-6

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

[1]For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf
of you Gentiles— [2]assuming that you have heard of the
stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,
[3]how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I
have written briefly. [4]When you read this, you can perceive
my insight into the mystery of Christ, [5]which was not made
known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now
been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.
[6]This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of
the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus
through the gospel.

SERMON

The World God Is Making | The Big Reveal

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

Come to the Feast
Jeff Lawson

Go to the highways and hedges.
Go to the farthest of fields.
Go and compel the sick and the well,
For our Father's house will be filled.

Come to the feast, come to the table,
The great and the least, the rich and the poor.
Come to the feast, come to the table.
Come and hunger no more.

Go to the streets of the city.
Bring in the crippled and blind.
All who would taste this banquet of grace
Must come and waste no more time. *Chorus*

In the robe of the Lamb you'll be covered,
Dressed in his pure righteousness.
For all of your guilt, his blood was spilled,
So come by your Father, be blessed. *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

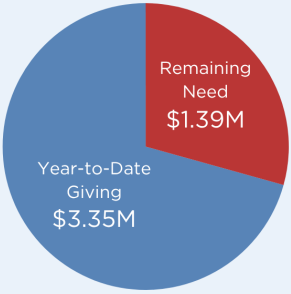
Year-to-Date Giving: $3,348,000 (70.6%)

2026 Remaining Need: $1,392,000 (29.4%)

FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our 2026 Finances

Projected 2026 Expenses: $4.74M



$1.39M still needed by 12/31 to meet our budget

20% of giving households give 85% of total gifts

$0 of total debt


CENTRAL
CHAMBER
SERIES
"OF LOVE AND MEMORY"
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
7:30 P.M.
PURCHASE TICKETS AT
CENTRALCHAMBERSERIES.COM

Women's Fall Day Retreat

PSALM 16





FINDING REFUGE AND CONTENTMENT IN CHRIST

We often find ourselves wrestling with the gap between what we think we need for a good life and what God says makes life good. Join us as we consider how Psalm 16 invites us to trust that the boundaries he gives are for our good, and that even what seems random is under his care and control.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
10 A.M.–3 P.M.