

CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 15, 2026
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION

November 15, 2026
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"On the one hand, we have had our attention distracted by the question of 'life after death,' and how to get there — which is not unimportant, but which is not the subject of Ephesians! On the other hand, we have taken our eyes off the ball of the church's true vocation through the disastrous habit of developing churches and 'denominations' which reflect different ethnicities or social classes and groups. And, along with that bad habit, we have developed selective readings of scripture which conveniently dodge round passages like the present one. The point is this: when the church is really being the church, the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places are forced to take notice."

—N. T. Wright

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, we pray, absolve your people from their offenses; that through your bountiful goodness we may be set free from the chains of all those sins which in our frailty we have committed: grant this, heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Judges 4:1-7
PSALM: Psalm 123
SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel J. Stone · Samuel S. Wesley · Arr. Brian Moss

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one over all the earth;
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Peter 2

LEADER You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,

PEOPLE **A holy nation, a people for his own possession,**

LEADER That you may proclaim the excellencies of him

PEOPLE **Who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

LEADER Once you were not a people,

PEOPLE **But now you are God's people;**

LEADER Once you had not received mercy,

PEOPLE **But now you have received mercy.**

HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Edward Perronet · Oliver Holden

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
And crown him Lord of all!
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
And crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng,
We at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown him Lord of all!

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

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 8

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

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

Build Your Kingdom Here

Chris Llewellyn · Gareth Gilkeson · Will Herron

Come set your rule and reign
In our hearts again.
Increase in us, we pray.
Unveil why we're made.
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls.
Holy Spirit, come invade us now.
We are your Church,
And we need your power in us.

We seek your kingdom first.
We hunger and we thirst,
Refuse to waste our lives,
For you're our joy and prize.
To see the captive hearts released,
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace,
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause.
We are your church,
And we pray, revive this earth.

Build your kingdom here.
Let the darkness fear.
Show your mighty hand.
Heal our streets and land.
Set your church on fire.
Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere.
Build your kingdom here,
We pray.

Unleash your kingdom's power,
Reaching the near and far.
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this.
Awake the kingdom seed in us.
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.
We are your Church.
We are the hope on earth. *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

Haina Lu

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Charlie Gallagher (9:30 a.m.)

Emily Brown, Luke Fisher, Ann Mark Fisher, Olivia Francella, Evelyn Garcia, John Jordan, Max Kneis, William Merritt, John Wilkins (11 a.m.)

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 these new members 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****.*

OFFERTORY - 9:30 AND 11 AM SERVICES

Os Justi

Anton Bruckner

Os justi meditabitur sapientiam,
et lingua ejus loquetur judicium.
Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius:
et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.
Alleluia.

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and his tongue speaks what is just.
The law of his God is in his heart;
and his steps will not be impeded.
Alleluia.

OFFERTORY - 5 PM SERVICE

Promises

Aaron Moses · Dante Bowe · Joe L. Barnes · Keila Marin · Lemuel Marin · Phillip Carrington Gaines

God of Abraham,
You're the God of covenant,
And of faithful promises.
Time and time again
You have proven
You'll do just what you said.

Though the storms may come and the winds may blow,
I'll remain steadfast.
And let my heart learn when you speak a word
It will come to pass.

Great is your faithfulness to me.
Great is your faithfulness to me.
From the rising sun to the setting same,
I will praise your name
Great is your faithfulness to me.

God from age to age,
Though the earth may pass away,
Your word remains the same.
Your history can prove
There's nothing you can't do.
You're faithful and true.

Though the storms may come and the winds may blow,
I'll remain steadfast.
And let my heart learn when you speak a word
It will come to pass. *Chorus*

I put my faith in Jesus,
My anchor to the ground.
My hope and firm foundation,
He'll never let me down.
He'll never let me down. *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 3:7-13

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

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of
God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.
8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace
was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches
of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan
of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,
10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God
might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the
heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose
that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we
have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in
him. 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering
for you, which is your glory.

SERMON

The World God Is Making | What is our calling?

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

Goodness of God

CeCe Winans · Ben Fielding · Brian Johnson · Edward Martin Cash · Jason Ingram · Jenn Johnson

I love you, Lord,
For your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in your hands.
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

'Cause all my life you have been faithful,
And all my life you have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love your voice.
You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, you are close like no other.
I've known you as a father.
I've known you as a friend.
And I have lived in the goodness of God. *Chorus*

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I surrender now.
I give you everything.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. *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.

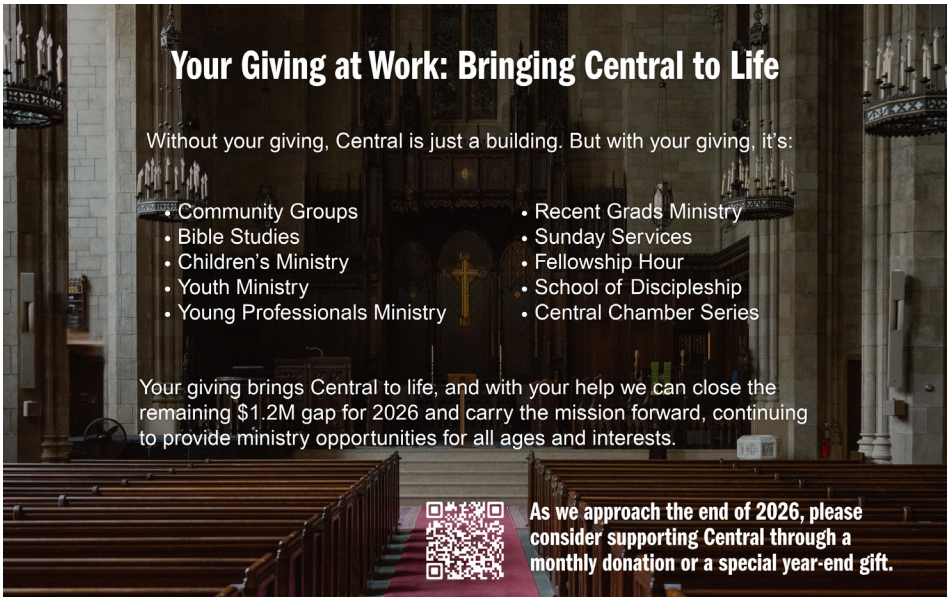
FINANCIAL UPDATE

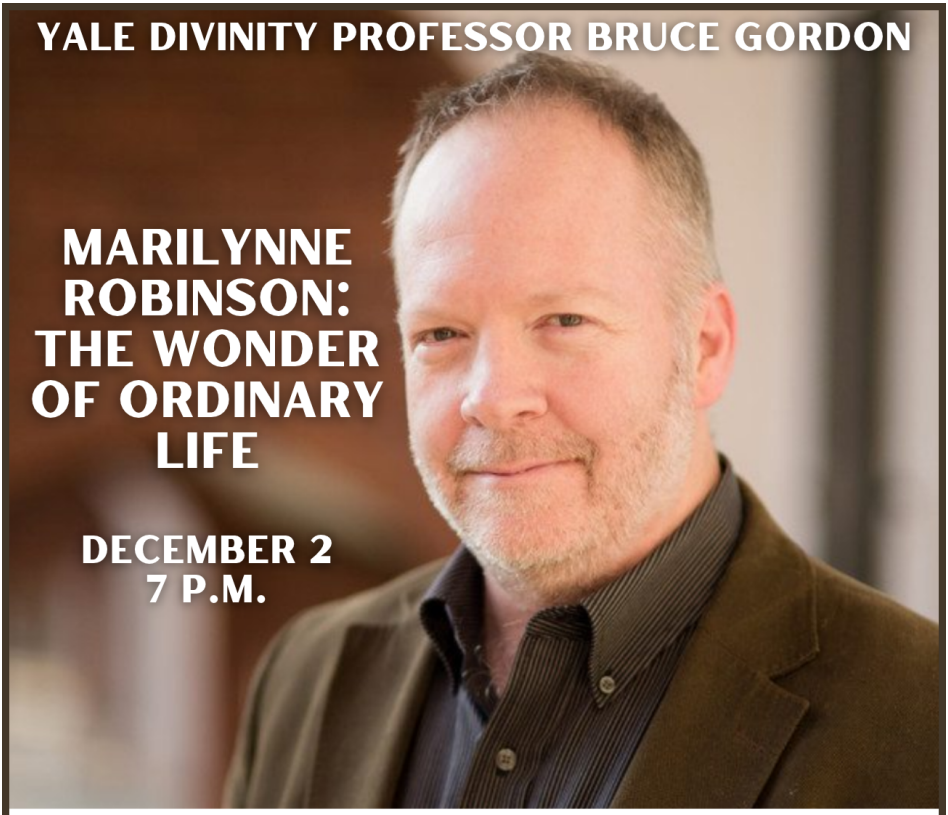
2026 Projected Expenses: $4,740,000

Year-to-Date Giving: $3,552,000 (74.9%)

2026 Remaining Need: $1,188,000 (25.1%)

FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS





Gilead is saturated with the sacredness of ordinary existence: light, water, children, old age, memory, forgiveness, meals, the human face. Yale Divinity School professor Bruce Gordon explores — through novelist Marilynne Robinson — the wonder of ordinary life.


CENTRAL'S ANNUAL CHILDREN'S
Christmas Pageant
In lieu of our p.m. service, join us in the sanctuary Sunday, December 6 at 5 p.m. for a festive start to the evening as our children help us celebrate the Advent season by performing in our annual Christmas pageant.
CAROLING AND DINNER TO FOLLOW