

CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 22, 2026
LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION

November 22, 2026
Last Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"Paul's prayer relates to the fulfillment of his vision for God's new society of love. He asks that its members may be strengthened to love and to know the love of Christ, though this surpasses knowledge. But then he turns from the love of God past knowing to the power of God past imagining, from limitless love to limitless power. For he is convinced, as we must be, that only divine power can generate divine love in the divine society."

—John Stott

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up, Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that they may produce abundantly the fruit of good works, and receive your abundant reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
PSALM: Psalm 100
SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23
GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Isaac Watts · John Hatton

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
'Til moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

(Added chorus at the 5 p.m. service)
To our King be highest praise,
Rising through eternal days.
Just and faithful he shall reign.
Jesus shall reign!

People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen! *Chorus*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 47

LEADER Clap your hands, all peoples!

PEOPLE **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

LEADER For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,

PEOPLE **A great king over all the earth.**

LEADER God has gone up with a shout,

PEOPLE **The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

LEADER Sing praises to our King, sing praises;

PEOPLE **For God is the King of all the earth!**

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Eleanor H. Hull · Tr. Mary E. Byrne · Traditional Irish · Arr. David Allen

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler 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

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of the world and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Revelation 5:5, 9-10

Weep no more! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. With his blood he has purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. He has made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth!

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

King of Kings

Jason Ingram · Brooke Ligertwood · Scott Ligertwood

In the darkness we were waiting,
Without hope, without light,
Till from heaven you came running,
There was mercy in your eyes.
To fulfill the law and prophets,
To a virgin came the Word,
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt.

Praise the Father. Praise the Son.
Praise the Spirit, three in one.
God of glory, majesty.
Praise forever to the King of Kings.

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation,
You did not despise the cross.
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation,
Jesus for our sake you died. *Chorus*

And the morning that you rose,
All of heaven held its breath,
Till that stone was moved for good,
For the Lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs,
And the angels stood in awe,
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born,
Then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By his blood and in his name,
In his freedom I am free,
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me. *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

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

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

Free, Amen

We The Kingdom

Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.

Hope falling down like rain,
Love that I can't explain,
Peace that stills my soul,
Light in the darkest place,
Life even in the pain,
It feels like coming home.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
I am free, amen.

Here, I'm alive again.
Gone is the weight of sin.
Oh, sweet liberty,
Praise God! Who saved my life.
I'm bought with the blood of Christ.
I have been redeemed. *Chorus*

Free at last, free at last,
Thank God Almighty, I am free at last!
All my chains are in the past.
Thank God Almighty, I am free at last!
Oh, I'm free.
Thank God I'm free! *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 3:14-21

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

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from
whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that
according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be
strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner
being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through
faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have
strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth
and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of
Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all
the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all
that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,
21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout
all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

SERMON

The World God Is Making | What is our power source?

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

Jesus Is Better

Aaron Ivey · Brett Land

There is no other so sure and steady.
My hope is held in your hand
When castles crumble and breath is fleeting.
Upon this rock I will stand, yeah.
Upon this rock I will stand, glory, glory.

Glory, glory, we have no other king.
But Jesus Lord of all.
Raise the anthem, our loudest praises ring.
We crown him Lord of all.

Your kindly rule has shattered and broken
The curse of sin's tyranny.
My life is hidden 'neath Heaven's shadow.
Your crimson flood covers me.
Your crimson flood covers me, we say: *Chorus*

In all my sorrows, Jesus is better.
Make my heart believe.
In every victory, Jesus is better.
Make my heart believe.

Than any comfort, Jesus is better.
Make my heart believe.
More than all riches, Jesus is better.
Make my heart believe.
And our souls declaring, Jesus is better.
Make my heart believe.
And our song eternal, Jesus is better.
Make my heart believe.

Glory, glory, we have no other king.
But Jesus Lord of all. *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 Budgeted Expenses: $4,740,000

Year-to-Date Giving: $3,618,000 (76.3%)

2026 Remaining Need: $1,122,000 (23.7%)

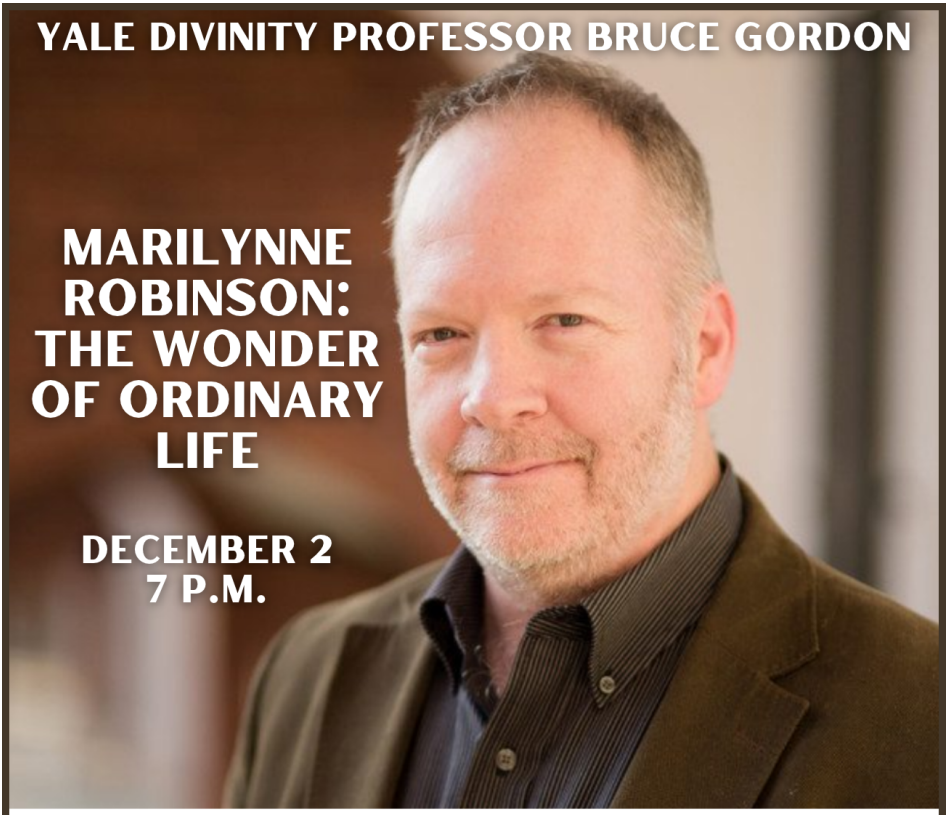
Your Giving at Work: Central Youth Ministry

The vision of Central's Youth Ministry is to be a vibrant and welcoming community of students, leaders, and parents who experience the transformative power of the gospel and encourage one another to follow Jesus throughout their lives.

Your giving enables our youth to participate in retreats, hold other events and outings throughout the city, and share a meal together every week before Sunday Night Live!



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



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