



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“In the meantime, if you are worried about the people outside, the most unreasonable thing you can do is to remain outside yourself. Christians are Christ’s body, the organism through which He works. Every addition to that body enables Him to do more. If you want to help those outside you must add your own little cell to the body of Christ who alone can help them. Cutting off a man’s fingers would be an odd way of getting him to do more work.”

—C.S. LEWIS

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth so that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's service that they may renounce those things that are contrary to their profession and follow all such things as are agreeable to it; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

PSALM: Psalm 4

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Doori Na

And Can It Be

Charles Wesley · Thomas Campbell

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain,
For me, who Him to death, pursued.
Amazing love! how can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

*Amazing love! how can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me. *Chorus*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. *Chorus*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold, I approach th' eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. *Chorus*

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96

LEADER Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

PEOPLE **Sing to the LORD, all the earth!**

LEADER Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

PEOPLE **Tell of his salvation from day to day.**

LEADER Declare his glory among the nations,

PEOPLE **His marvelous works among all the
peoples!**

HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King

Theodulf, Bishop of Orléans · J.M. Neale

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice, and with us sing;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God, and on Him cast your care!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us so that we love and serve you in all that we do. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Psalm 103

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

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

Living Hope

Phil Wickham

How great the chasm that lay between us,
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation, I turned to Heaven,
And spoke Your Name into the night.
Then through the darkness, Your lovingkindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written:
Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of Ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The Cross has spoken, I am forgiven;
The King of Kings calls me His Own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever,
Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.

Hallelujah! Praise the One Who set me free!
Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain;
There's salvation in Your Name:
Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise:
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared, "The grave has no claim on Me!"
Then came the morning that sealed the promise:
Your buried body began to breathe.

Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared, "The grave has no claim on Me!"
Jesus, Yours is the victory. *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.

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.

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

The Plans

Andrew Berghold · Franni Cash · Martin Cash · Scott Cash

Central Youth Choir

When I am anxious,
When I am afraid,
I take it to God.
I call on His Name.
If the mover of mountains
Is listening to me,
Why should I worry?
Why should I fear anything?

*For I know the plans He has for me.
Yes, I know the plans He has for me,
For my good,
To give me a hope and a future.*

When I am waiting
For His promise to come,
Sometimes He is silent,
But I'm never alone.

He walks in the valley.
He quiets the storm.
He stands in the fire.
So why should I fear anymore? *Chorus*

All my life,
All I've seen,
Your endless love

Surrounding me.
With every breath
I will be found by You.

If I set sail
Or spread my wings
And find myself
On the farthest sea,
You're waiting there.
I will be found by You.
I will be found by You. *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

Luke 13:22-30

The passage can be found on page 873 of the pew Bible.

²²Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, ²⁴“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ ²⁶Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ ²⁸In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

SERMON

Good For You? | Is Christianity Intolerant?

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 at each station.

COMMUNION HYMN

All to Us

Chris Tomlin · Jesse Reeves · Matt Redman · Matt Maher

Precious Cornerstone, sure Foundation,
You are faithful to the end.
We are waiting on You, Jesus.
We believe You're all to us.

*Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives.
We believe You're all to us.*

Only Son of God sent from Heaven,
Hope and mercy at the cross.
You are everything, You're the Promise.
Jesus, You are all to us. *Chorus*

You're all to us, You're all to us,
You're all to us, yes, You are.

When this passing world is made new,
We will see You face to face,
And forever we will worship.
Jesus, You are all to us! *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. ∞

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTERS

Our weekly newsletter is sent out every Friday morning. Be sure to subscribe to stay up to date on everything happening at Central!

Ministry and special series newsletters and posts from our journal Christ & Contemporary Culture are sent out on a monthly or quarterly basis.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have you experienced a major life event such as a birth, marriage, or baptism that you would like to share with the Central community? Fill out our online form at centralchurchnyc.org/announcements. All submissions are reviewed by Central staff before being published in the Sunday bulletin. Announcements are shared on the first Sunday of each month.