Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ 25th Sunday after Pentecost ~ 15 November 2026

Preparation for Worship:
"*Waste is worse than loss*."
~Thomas Edison

Prelude *Kremser, Prayer of Thanksgiving* Dale Wood
During the prelude, we encourage you to quiet your mind and prepare your heart for worship.

Introit 413 *Come into God's Presence*

Call to Worship:
Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
People: You have been our home down through the ages.
Leader: You were there before the world was made, and will be forever.
People: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Prayer of Adoration:
God of all good, you put down those who abuse their power, and you lift up those who suffer. Even in times when evil seems to hold sway, we trust your power in all things. Keep us faithful as we watch for your coming realm of justice, peace, and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Call to Prayer
God's love has destined us and all things for salvation. Therefore, let us confess our sins to one another and to God. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession
Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you by failing to honor you and one another. When we place our lives before you in prayer, it is your love that sheds light on our shortcomings. Your constancy and faithfulness call us back to yourself. Perfect your love in us, and teach us to walk in your ways. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance
Children of the light: because we belong to God in Christ, we have nothing to fear in this life or the next. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Amen.

***The Gloria: Hymn 583**
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest. Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.

***The Peace**
Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Prayer for Illumination
Shine your light on this reading from your Word, O God. By your Spirit let us see the wonders of your truths. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear what you would speak to us this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Scripture Reading I Corinthians 13:1-13
Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.
People: Thanks be to God.

A Thought to Carry
We take this time to speak directly and briefly to our children and youth, leaving them with a thought to discuss with their families. Children and youth may head to their Sunday School classrooms during the hymn that follows.

Psalter: Hymn 803 *My Shepherd Will My Need Supply* **Psalm 23**
Remain seated for the singing of the Psalms.

One Person's Story: Elder Jean Miewald

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 25:14-28

Anthem *The Road Home* Stephen Paulus

Sermon **"On a Journey"** Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response 571 *Amen*

***Affirmation of Faith** "Credo for Christians"

I worship and adore God, source, essence, and aim of all things,
Spirit that enlivens all beings.
I follow the way of Jesus, who found God in himself
and shared a way for others to find God in themselves.
He was born through love,
He lived for love,
He suffered for love,
He died for love,
But love never dies.
I submit myself to the leading of the love that is God,
that I may be compassionate toward all beings,
that I may live and serve in community with others,
that I may ask for and offer forgiveness,
that I may praise and enjoy God forever. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and 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.

*Or "Mother" or "Parent"

Welcome and Next Steps

Offerings and Gifts of Self

Offertory

***The Doxology: Hymn 606, 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow** Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.

*For a gender-neutral version, use hymn 607.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn 687** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* Psalm 90

***Charge and Benediction**

Extroit 542 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

Postlude *Trio Sonata in E flat* JS Bac**h**

Feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to stay and listen