

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
22nd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Stewardship Sunday ~ 9 November 2025 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."
~Pablo Picasso

Prelude

Reverie

Louis Vierne

Choral Introit

May I Be Empty

Call to Worship:

Leader: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

People: We are God's people, entrusted with the care of creation and all the gifts we have received.

Leader: From the abundance of the Lord, we have been blessed with time, talent, and treasure.

People: We gather today to give thanks for these gifts and to ask for the wisdom to use them faithfully.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God, whose generosity knows no bounds.

People: Let us offer our lives in gratitude and service, stewarding all that we have for the glory of God and the good of our neighbors. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration

All praise to you, most holy and gracious God. You have set us free from fear and filled us with good things. You surprise us with your grace and give us what we need. Even when we lose sight of your way, you draw us back to yourself and overwhelm us with your power, compassion, and justice. All praise to you, our triune God; 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 41**

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

*1 O worship the King, all glorious above! O gratefully sing God's power and God's love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.*

*2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form; and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.*

*3 The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, your power has founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree, and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.*

*4 Your bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.*

*5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.*

Call to Prayer

God waits in mercy to forgive all that we hesitate to name. Let us recognize our faults and commit them to God's grace. Together, let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, O Lord, when we treat your generosity as our due and fail to share it with others. Forgive us when, in our busyness and distraction, we neglect to center our restless spirits in your peace. Train our hearts on the things that really matter. Clear our vision, so that we may see the abundance we have in you, and open our hands to share it. Let us lead the faithful, generous lives that you intend. Amen.
[Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." 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.

Children pre-K through 4th grade are invited to meet in the narthex for Sunday school.

Prayer for Illumination

Show us something new in this reading from your Word, O God. Speak to us the things we need to hear, and let us go from this place changed by the Word that you have spoken. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

I Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

Lector: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 36**

For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

*For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.*

2 In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.

*In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.*

3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

*For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

Second Scripture Reading

Haggai 2:1-9

Anthem

Lead Me, Lord

Sermon

“IRL: In Real Life”

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response 601

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

Minute for Stewardship

Offering and Gifts of Self

Abide with Me

Leah Smith, violin and Ella Belardi, cello

Response: The Doxology

*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 Doxology, use Hymn 607.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

- 1 *God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*
- 2 *Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.*
- 3 *Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Alleluia

Postlude
Boellmann

Agincourt Carol

Leah Smith, violin and Ella Belardi, cello

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