

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
Order for Worship ~ First Sunday in Lent ~ 22 February 2026

Preparation for Worship:  
"We gain the strength of the temptation we resist."  
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Prelude**

*Be Still My Soul*

Harold DeCou

**Choral Introit**

*May I Be Empty*

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

**People: The Word of the Lord is our daily bread.**

Leader: People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

**People: Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.**

Leader: People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

**People: We will worship the Lord our God alone.**

**Prayer of Adoration**

God of the wilderness, as we devote these forty days to you, shape us by your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord, so that we may be ready by your grace to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life; 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 213**

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

- 1 *In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.*
- 2 *When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.*
- 3 *When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.*
- 4 *Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.*
- 5 *In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.*

**Call to Prayer**

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, who no longer suffer in silence, but name their sin and seek God's grace. Together, let us confess our sin:

**Prayer of Confession**

**Lord God, you know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. You know our nakedness, and you know our sin. We confess that we have disobeyed your Word, denying your providence and care, and relying on our own cleverness. Have mercy on us, we pray: cover us with your grace, feed us with the bread of life, and re-create us in your image; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** [Silent prayers]

**Words of Assurance**

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Amen.

**\*Response: Jesus, Remember Me**

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*  
(Sing two times.)

**\*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.

*All children from preschool through fourth grade are invited to meet their teachers in the narthex and go to their classes.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

O God, may the words of your mouth be our daily bread, and may the leading of your Spirit become our way, through Christ, the Word Incarnate. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading**

Matthew 4:1-11

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

**\*Hymn 757**

*Today, We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

**Second Scripture Reading**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Choral Anthem**

*A Gaelic Blessing*

John Rutter

**Sermon**

**“The Eyes of Both Were Opened”**

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**

**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 166**

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Prelude in G Major*

JS Bach

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