

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Reformation Sunday ~ 26 October 2025 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:

"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."
~Rumi

Prelude

Choral Introit

May I Be Empty

Call to Worship:

Psalms 84

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts.

People: My soul longs for the courts of God.

Leader: My flesh sings for joy to the living God.

People: Happy are those who dwell in God's house, ever singing God's praise.

Leader: Happy are those whose strength is in God, in whose hearts are the highways to Zion.

Prayer of Adoration

Just and gracious God, you reveal to us the way to goodness and life. Teach us humility, that we may trust in your power and not our own, and make us ever grateful; 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 275**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Call to Prayer

God waits in mercy to forgive. Let us confess our failings and faults with confidence in God's grace. Together, let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, hope of your people in every age: we confess that we have wandered from your ways, lived without compassion, and disregarded the wellbeing of your creation. Renew your covenant in our hearts, for it is in you that we are healed and made whole. Guide us in the ways of your child, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

In mercy, God exalts the humble. 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

Pour out your Spirit upon us, O God. Let us hear your Word, and let your wisdom draw us closer to you; through Christ, the Incarnate Word. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Joel 2:23-32

Lector: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalter: Hymn 329

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength
Remain seated to sing the Psalter.

Psalms 46

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 18:9-14

Anthem

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

Sermon

"I Am Not Like Other People"

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 Mission

Offering and Gifts of Self

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 624**

I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Alleluia

Postlude

Fugue in G Minor

J.S. Bach

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