Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ Stewardship Sunday ~ 8 November 2026

Preparation for Worship:
"*Abundance is not something we acquire. It is something we tune into*."
~Wayne Dyer

Prelude *Prayer in B Major* Guilmant
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: Rejoice and be glad!
People: God is our salvation; God draws near to the humble.
Leader: Rejoice and be glad!
People: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Prayer of Adoration:
Great and loving God, your wisdom is radiant and unfading, easily discerned by all who seek your way. When the faithful live in love and work for justice, heaven breaks into earth. Give us grace to live confidently and expectantly, trusting that the Lord of history, who has been approaching from all eternity, comes to us continually with compassion, redemption, and hope; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***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.

Call to Prayer
Beloved of God, we are called to live in right relationship with our Maker by loving one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins to the One who hears and forgives. Together, let us say:

Prayer of Confession
Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you by not loving one another. We get attached to all the wrong things, hoarding your gifts to ourselves, and forgetting your generous care. We assign blame; we judge others; we neglect to share with others the mercy we have received from you. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and lead us into the ways of generosity, compassion, and peace. Amen.
[Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance
Rejoice and be glad, for God is mighty to save and comes to us in peace to forgive, strengthen, and restore. 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
Send your Spirit to move in our world, O God, to stir inside us and to change our hearts. Renew in us the joy of following in the way of Christ. Let us hear with eagerness the Word that you would speak to us today. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Matthew 25:1-13
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.

***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.

Second Scripture Reading II Corinthians 9:6-10

Anthem *Holy Is the Lord* Schubert, Kevin McChesney, arr.

Sermon **"A Jolly Giver"** 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

Minute for Stewardship *Cheerful Giving Stewardship Drive* Sally Child

Minute for Mission *Angel Tree* Steve Boisvert, Carol Petti

Offerings and Gifts of Self

Offertory *Holy is the Lord* Kevin McChesney

***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 697** *Take My Life*

1 Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.
3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.
4 Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.
5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.
6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

***Charge and Benediction**

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

Postlude *Prelude in E minor* J.S. Bach

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