

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
First Sunday after Epiphany ~ 15 January 2023 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
~Matthew 11:28

Prelude

Elevation

Guillmant

Choral Introit

This Is the Day

Call to Worship:

Leader: Sing a new song, a song of thanks and praise,

People: for God has done wondrous deeds, and is great beyond compare.

Prayer of Adoration

Holy God, you sent your child to be the light of the world, so that all may know the brightness of your love. Fill us with your grace this day that we too may bear witness to his light and serve your coming reign; 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 39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1) *Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee.*

Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not. As thou has been thou forever shalt be.

REFRAIN: *Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness. Morning by morning new mercies I see.*

All I have needed, thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

2) *Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above*

Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. REFRAIN

3) *Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,*

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. REFRAIN

Call to Prayer

Let us confess our sins to God, for the Holy One is steadfast in love and always ready to forgive.

Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, we have chased after foolish things and wasted our energies on vanity; much of our strength has been spent in vain. Deliver us from arrogance and blindness to your light. Forgive our self-concern, so that we may find our reward with you, as servants of your reign; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

[Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

Beloved, you are accepted and welcomed in Christ, the Lamb who bears our sin. Happy are those who put their trust in God, who delight to do God's will. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: In him we are forgiven. Amen.

***Response: The Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***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.

Time with the Children

Children 2nd grade and under are invited to come to the front steps for the children's sermon.

Prayer for Illumination

Come, Holy Spirit, open our ears to the truth of your Word, that the testimony of Christ may be strengthened among us and the glad news of deliverance be revealed. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 1:1-9

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalter: Hymn 651*I Waited Patiently for God***Psalm 40**

- 1) *I waited patiently for God, for God to hear my prayer; and God bent down to where I sank and listened to me there.*
- 2) *God raised me from a miry pit, from mud and sinking sand, and set my feet upon a rock where I can firmly stand.*
- 3) *And on my lips a song was put, a new song to the Lord. Many will marvel open-eyed and put their trust in God.*
- 4) *Great wonders you have done, O Lord, all purposed for our good. Unable every one to name, I bow in gratitude.*

Second Scripture Reading*John 1:29-42***Gospel Response***Threefold Amen***Sermon****"A Come-to-Jesus Moment"**

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

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.**

Welcome and Next Steps**Offering and Offertory Anthem***Christ Be with Me*

Oliver Tarney

Response: The DoxologyPraise 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! Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication**Closing Hymn 494***Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

- 1) *Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou light of all,
From the best bliss that earth imparts, we turn unfilled to heed thy call.*
- 2) *Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood; thou savest them that on thee call;*
To them that seek thee thou art good, to them that find thee, all in all.
- 3) *We taste thee, O thou living bread, and long to feast upon thee still;
We drink of thee, the fountainhead, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.*
- 4) *Our restless spirits year for thee, where'er our changeful lot is cast,
Glad when they gracious smile we see, blest when our faith can hold thee fast.*
- 5) *O Jesus, ever with us stay; make all our moments calm and bright.
O chase the night of sin away; shine o'er the world thy holy light.*

Charge and Benediction**Extroit***Sevenfold Amen***Postlude***Fugue in G Minor*

J.S. Bach

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

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