

Growing together ...in Faith...Reason...Service...and Love



Let
Our
Light
Shine

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian U.S.A.)

**27 September 2026 -- Order of Worship
18th Sunday after Pentecost**

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Order for Worship ~ 18th Sunday after Pentecost ~ 27 September 2026

Preparation for Worship:

"We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us."

~E.M. Forster

Prelude

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

Paul Manz

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: Praise the Lord, who walked with us and brought us to this day. .

People: The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Leader: Praise the Lord, who still journeys with us in unseen days to come.

People: The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Leader: Praise the Lord, whose presence and love never fail: yesterday, today, and tomorrow..

People: The Lord is our hope, our refuge, and our strength.

Prayer of Adoration:

Gracious God, though we do not always sense your presence, we are grateful that it never fails. Your mercies are bountiful, and your love never ends. Pour out your Spirit upon us in this hour of worship. Renew us in the inward person, so that ours might be lives of joyful service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 263**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Call to Prayer

Let us confess our faults against God and our neighbors, trusting in the promise of forgiveness. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

God of our days, how rarely we look for your presence and activity in our lives. We complain in the face of your mercy. We seek our comfort above the needs of our neighbors. We ignore your will. Turn to us again. Teach us your humility. Fill us with the deep gratitude that transforms our hearts and minds. Reconcile us to you and to our neighbors, so that we might do your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus," humbling himself, emptying himself, making his life a gift to God and to the world. 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

Give us ears to hear your word to us today, O God, and give us open and receptive hearts, that we might put your word to work in our lives and in our world; through Christ, your Word Incarnate. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

Pew Bible Page 23

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Thought to Carry

Pastor Snyder takes 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 630**

Fairest Lord Jesus

Second Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

Pew Bible Page 197

Anthem

The Chorister's Prayer

Dishman

Sermon

“Self-Emptying”

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

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 108** *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Omit verses 3 and 4

*Charge and Benediction

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

Postlude *Little Prelude in F Major* J.S. Bach
Feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to stay and listen

***If you have a prayer request, please write it on the white prayer request card located in your pew.
You may place it in the offering plate located in the narthex to be printed next week.
Prayer concerns will remain in the bulletin for three weeks unless otherwise requested.***

Prayers are requested for:

Shawn Burke, Gloria Child, The family of Howard Davidson, Nancy Green, Nick Helmer, Jamie, Dennis Kriek
The Family of Joan McAnulty, Cathy Morgan, Barb Oram, Brody Polk, Kathy Repko, Resa Walsh, Adam Vance