

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ 15 March 2026

Preparation for Worship:

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."
~Edith Wharton

Prelude *Morning Song* David Schelat

Choral Introit *May I Be Empty*

Call to Worship:

Leader: God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

People: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Leader: Once we lived in darkness, but now—as children of light,
we are called to what is good and right and true.

People: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Prayer of Adoration

Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed, that we may also say with the blind man of old, "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ's light, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn 321** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Call to Prayer

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light, that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light, that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light, that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Amen.

***Response: Hymn 227** *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

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalter: Hymn 802

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Please remain seated for the singing of the Psalms.

Psalm 23

Second Scripture Reading

Anthem

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling
The Bower Hill Bell Choir

John A. Behnke

Sermon

“”

Elder Phil Neusius

Sung Response

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 212**

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Menuet

Leon Boellmann

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