

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
Order for Worship ~ 2nd Sunday of Easter ~ 12 April 2026

Preparation for Worship:

*"The more uncertain I have felt about myself, the more there has grown up in me a feeling of kinship with all things."  
~Carl Jung*

**Prelude**

*Elevation in F Major*

Alex Guilmant

**Introit**

*May I Be Empty*

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: God has given us a new birth and a living hope of the resurrection.**

Leader: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

**People: In this we rejoice, even if we suffer.**

Leader: For, although we have not seen Jesus, we love him.

**People: And although we have not seen, we believe.**

**Prayer of Adoration:**

God of signs and wonders, you have revealed yourself to us in the living, and the teaching, and the dying of Jesus your Child. Let us know you most fully in his rising from death to new life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

**\*Hymn 241**

*Woman, Weeping in the Garden*

**Call to Prayer**

God has been made known to us in deeds of power, signs, and wonders, and will not abandon us if we confess the truth about ourselves. Together, let us confess our sins.

**Prayer of Confession:**

**God, you have made known to us the ways of life. Yet, too often we put other things above you and turn away from your ways, choosing instead the ways of death. We put our trust in violence; we hoard your good gifts; we live in fear and pride. Forgive us, and guide us more and more into your presence, so that we may know the fullness of joy. Amen.** [Silent prayers]

**Words of Assurance**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. 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.

*All children from preschool through fourth grade are invited to meet their teachers in the narthex and go to their classes.*

**Prayer of Illumination**

Guiding God, send your Holy Spirit upon the reading of your Word, that it might show us the path of life and lead us into your presence, where there is fullness of joy. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading**

I Peter 1:3-9

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word..

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Psalter: Hymn 810**

*When in the Night I Meditate  
Remain seated to sing the Psalms.*

**Psalms 16**

**Second Scripture Reading**

John 20:19-31

**Anthem**

*Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling*  
Bell Choir

John A. Behnke

**Sermon**

**“Certainty and Doubt”**

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**

**Offerings and Gifts of Self**

**Offertory**

*Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*

**\*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 246**

*Christ Is Alive*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Extroit**

**Postlude**

*Herr Jesu Christ, Dich Zu Uns Wend*

J.S. Bach

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