

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



*Let
Our
Light
Shine*

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

**23 November 2025 -- Order of Worship
Reign of Christ**

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Reign of Christ Sunday ~ 23 November 2025 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:
"To be great is to be misunderstood."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Prelude *We Praise You, O God* Dale Wood

Choral Introit *May I Be Empty*

Call to Worship:

Leader: In Christ all things hold together,

People: The head of the church and the Lord of all.

Litany for the Reign of Christ:

Leader: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice!

People: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Leader: The Lord is robed in majesty and girded with strength.

People: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Leader: God has established the world, and God's realm will never be shaken.

People: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Leader: God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

People: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Prayer of Adoration

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior, you pour out your power for the powerless and your salvation for the wayward. Remember us in your new creation, so that we may live in peace with you in the presence of the Holy One, to whom be all honor and glory, through you, in the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 367** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Call to Prayer

Jesus declared to Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my followers would fight." In the peace of Christ, let us search our hearts for traces of Christ's Kingdom. Together, let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives. We confess that we have not bowed before him, and are slow to acknowledge his reign of peace. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all that we are, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"God has rescued us from the power of evil and claimed us for the realm of Jesus Christ, in whom we have redemption." 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.

Children pre-K through 4th grade are invited to meet in the narthex for Sunday school.

Prayer for Illumination

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Colossians 1:11-20 Pew Bible Page 200
Lector: Holy wisdom, holy Word.
People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 643** *Now Thank We All Our God*

Second Scripture Reading Luke 23:33-43 Pew Bible Page 89

Anthem *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Sermon **“Being Understood”** Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response *Amazing Grace*
Bea Watterson, violin, Addie Ivey, clarinet

***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 Worship & Music

Shortbread and Communion Volunteers

Offering and Gifts of Self

Amazing Grace

Bea Watterson, violin, Addie Ivey, clarinet

Response: The Doxology

*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 Doxology, use Hymn 607.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn 37**

Let All Things Now Living

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Come Ye Thankful People, Come
Bea Watterson, violin, Addie Ivey, clarinet

Postlude

Recessional on “Lasst uns Erfreuen”

Douglas Wagner

Feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to remain 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:

Matt Arner, Beverly Burke, Sophie Burke, Nancy Green, Hekima Place, Sam Levine, Alex Lorber, Robert Olinger, Barb Oram, Antoinette Shanahan, Resa Walsh, Family of Lynne Wohleber